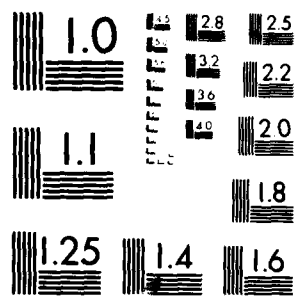


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MICROWAVE LANDING SYSTEM FLARE SUBSYSTEM TEST.(U)  
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UNCLASSIFIED FAA-CI-81-61

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MICROCOPY RESOLUTION TEST CHART  
NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS-1963-A

Report No. DOT/FAA/CT-81/61

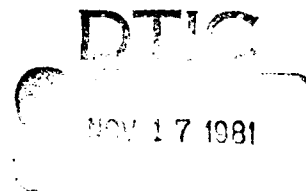
**LEVEL**

(12)

## MICROWAVE LANDING SYSTEM FLARE SUBSYSTEM TEST

Carl B. Jezierski

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION TECHNICAL CENTER  
Atlantic City Airport, New Jersey 08405



**DATA REPORT**

**OCTOBER 1981**

Document is available to the U.S. public through  
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Prepared for

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**FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION**  
Systems Research & Development Service  
Washington, D. C. 20590

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AD A107327

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Technical Report Documentation Page

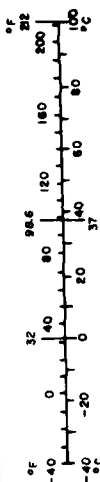
1. Report No. FAA-CT-81-61	2. Government Accession No. AD-A107 327	3. Recipient's Catalog No. 11
4. Title and Subtitle MICROWAVE LANDING SYSTEM FLARE SUBSYSTEM TEST.		5. Report Date October 1981
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16. Abstract  Microwave Landing System (MLS) Flare subsystem performance data were collected on a specially instrumented Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Technical Center aircraft. The airborne data were compared with a theodolite tracking system reference and error plots generated. Due to extensive lightning damage only two flight tests were performed. Flare subsystem accuracy could not be determined because of insufficient data.		13. Type of Report and Period Covered Data Report. April 1979
17. Key Words MLS Flare Subsystem		14. Sponsoring Agency Code
19. Security Classif. (of this report) Unclassified		18. Distribution Statement Document is available to the U.S. public through the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161
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# METRIC CONVERSION FACTORS

Approximate Conversions to Metric Measures			
Symbol	When You Know	Multiply by	To Find
<b>LENGTH</b>			
in	inches	2.5	centimeters
ft	feet	30	centimeters
yd	yards	0.9	meters
mi	miles	1.6	kilometers
<b>AREA</b>			
sq in	square inches	6.5	square centimeters
sq ft	square feet	0.09	square meters
sq yd	square yards	0.8	square meters
sq mi	square miles	2.6	square kilometers
acres	acres	0.4	hectares
<b>MASS (weight)</b>			
oz	ounces	28	grams
lb	pounds	0.45	kilograms
	short tons (2000 lb)	0.9	tonnes
<b>VOLUME</b>			
teaspoon	teaspoons	5	milliliters
fluid oz	fluid ounces	30	milliliters
cup	cups	0.24	liters
quart	quarts	0.95	liters
gallon	gallons	3.8	liters
cu ft	cubic feet	0.03	cubic meters
cu yd	cubic yards	0.76	cubic meters
<b>TEMPERATURE (exact)</b>			
°F	Fahrenheit temperature	5/9 (after subtracting 32)	Celsius temperature
°C	Celsius temperature	9/5 (then add 32)	Fahrenheit temperature

\* 1 in = 2.54 exactly. For other exact conversions and more detailed tables, see NBS Misc. Publ. 286, Units of Weights and Measures, Price \$2.25, SD Catalog No. C-13-0286.

Approximate Conversions from Metric Measures			
Symbol	When You Know	Multiply by	To Find
<b>LENGTH</b>			
mm	millimeters	0.04	inches
cm	centimeters	0.4	inches
m	meters	3.3	feet
km	kilometers	0.6	miles
<b>AREA</b>			
sq cm	square centimeters	0.16	square inches
sq m	square meters	1.2	square yards
km <sup>2</sup>	square kilometers	0.4	square miles
ha	hectares (10,000 m <sup>2</sup> )	2.5	acres
<b>MASS (weight)</b>			
g	grams	0.035	ounces
kg	kilograms	2.2	pounds
t	tonnes (1000 kg)	1.1	short tons
<b>VOLUME</b>			
ml	milliliters	0.03	fluid ounces
l	liters	2.1	pints
l	liters	1.06	quarts
l	liters	0.26	gallons
m <sup>3</sup>	cubic meters	35	cubic feet
m <sup>3</sup>	cubic meters	1.3	cubic yards
<b>TEMPERATURE (exact)</b>			
°C	Celsius temperature	9/5 (then add 32)	Fahrenheit temperature



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<span style="font-size: 3em; font-family: cursive;">A</span>	

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## INTRODUCTION

### PURPOSE.

The objective of this project was to evaluate performance of the Microwave Landing System (MLS) Flare subsystem.

### BACKGROUND.

The Flare subsystem supplies uninterrupted elevation guidance during the flareout under Category-3 weather minimums after the aircraft has flown past the normal MLS elevation coverage zone (typically, the runway threshold). The Flare subsystem, designed and constructed in Australia, was integrated into the MLS test bed facility on runway 31 at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Technical Center to support continuing development of the flare function.

## DATA COLLECTION

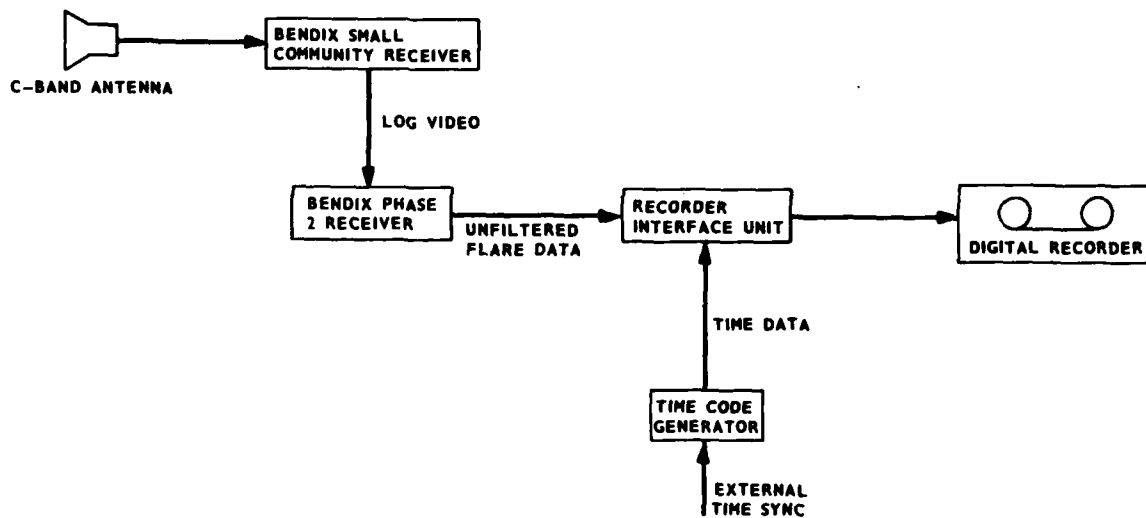
The FAA Technical Center's Aerocommander aircraft, N-50, was instrumented to collect the airborne flare data (figure 1). A C-band omnidirectional antenna, installed between the aircraft nose and the wind screen base, received and fed the MLS guidance signals to a Bendix Small Community (SC) receiver that produced a log video output signal. The log video was then fed to a Bendix phase-2 receiver which decoded the flare function and produced the digital flare angle data. Two receivers were used because the SC receiver was not configured to decode the flare information and the phase-2 receiver could not process the raw radiofrequency (RF) signal.

The digital output from the phase-2 receiver was then fed to the recorder interface unit, tagged with time information, and formatted for recording on 9-track digital tape.

The aircraft was tracked by the theodolite tracking system located at the Technical Center. Figure 2 shows the layout of the MLS subsystems and the theodolite tracking towers. MLS siting constants obtained from precise surveys are listed in table 1.

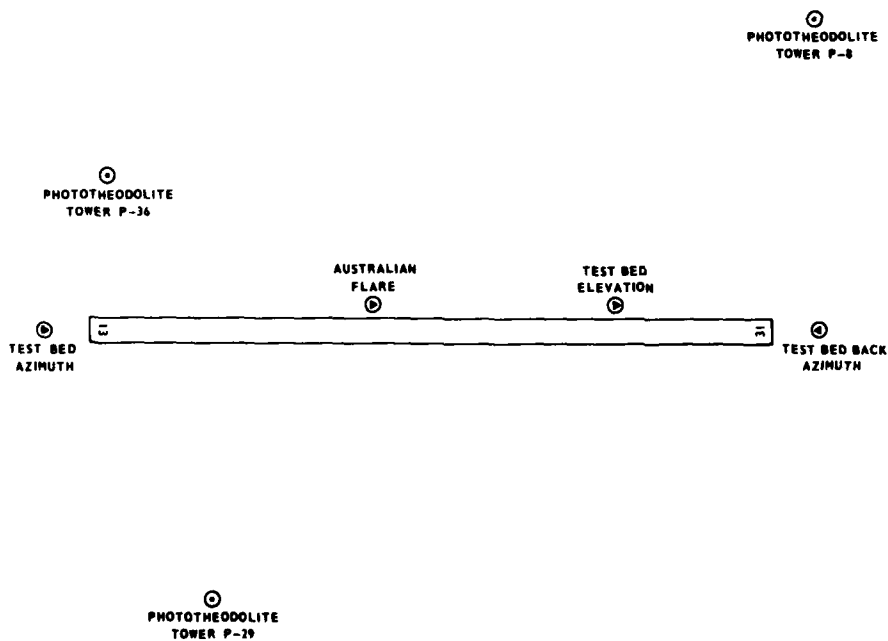
TABLE 1. TEST BED MLS SITING CONSTANTS

<u>Site</u>	<u>(Feet)</u>		
	<u>X</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Z</u>
Azimuth Phase Center	0.0	0.0	0.0
Elevation Phase Center	9,730.78	429.03	-14.67
Flare Phase Center	7,312.73	431.10	-7.16
Back Azimuth Phase Center	11,362.82	0.26	-12.11
Threshold (Runway 31)	10,781.87	0.0	



81-61-1

FIGURE 1. AIRBORNE DATA ACQUISITION INSTRUMENTATION



81-61-2

FIGURE 2. TEST BED MLS SUBSYSTEMS AND TRACKING SITES

Flare subsystem operation was checked prior to flight testing using an instrumented test van. The results indicated normal operation and the first of two flight profiles (figure 3) was flown the following day.

A series of five approaches were flown to runway 31 using front azimuth and flare guidance (April 11, 1979, odd numbered runs). Excessive shadowing by the aircraft's fuselage rendered data collected on the return trips useless. Hence, no even-numbered runs are included in this report. The second flight profile consisted of six partial orbits at an altitude of 1,700-feet and 4 nautical miles (nmi) from the field distance measuring equipment (DME) site for a flare elevation angle of approximately  $4^\circ$ . Only five runs were processed because tracking data for the first run were lost. Recorded data from these runs indicated normal operation without anomalies in the coverage region. Extensive lightning damage to the flare antenna electronics precluded further flight testing.

#### DATA REDUCTION AND ANALYSIS

The airborne data were filtered before merging with the tracker information employing an MLS Phase-2 receiver filter algorithm. It consists of an angle slew rate limiter, driving a single pole, low-pass digital filter and was implemented on a General Automation GA-16/440 minicomputer. A flow chart representation of the algorithm is shown in figure 4.

After the filtering operation, the airborne data were time correlated (merged) with the magnetic tape tracking data on the Technical Center's Honeywell 66/60 computer. The merge operation provided a data base on tape for plotting and future processing, and a disk file for immediate analysis on a remote graphics terminal. The flare data processing flow diagram is shown in figure 5.

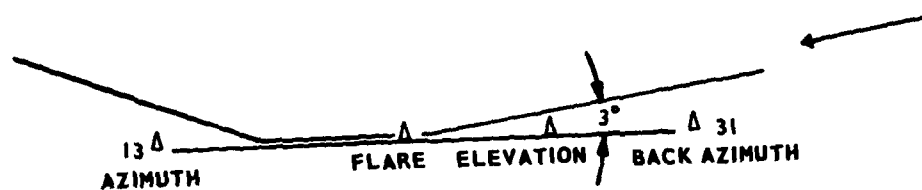
Four different output plots were generated as follows: (1) raw error plots for centerline approaches and partial orbits, (2) diagnostic plots showing filtered receiver output angle data and tracker derived angle data for centerline approaches, (3) path following error (PFE) filtered data, and (4) control motion noise (CMN) filtered data.

##### RAW ERROR DATA.

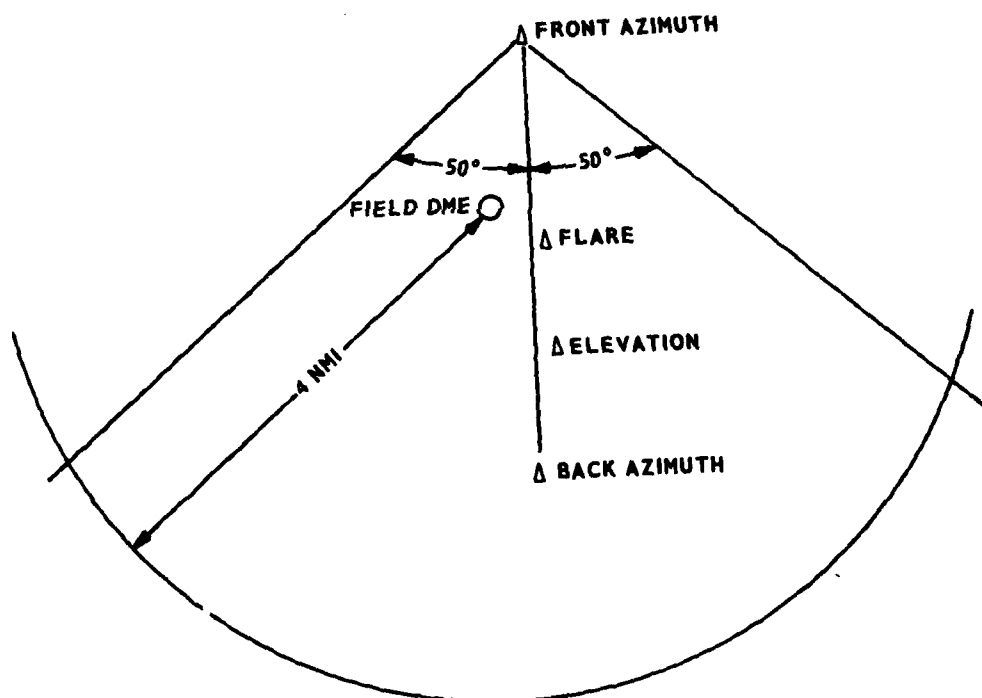
The raw error plots in appendix A show the difference between the receiver angle and the actual angle derived from the ground tracker data and are used to check coverage regions. The  $3^\circ$  centerline approach error plots (figures A-1 through A-5, appendix A) indicate that proportional guidance was provided in the region 2,500 feet inside threshold (1.36 nmi from azimuth phase center) to beyond 5 nmi from threshold. The partial orbit error plots (figures A-6 through A-10, appendix A) show that proportional guidance is provided in an azimuth sector well exceeding  $\pm 10^\circ$  about the runway centerline.

##### DIAGNOSTIC DATA.

The diagnostic plots in appendix B show the receiver angle data and tracker information used in calculating the error plots. These plots are used only to help identify the source of sudden variations in the corresponding error plots. The



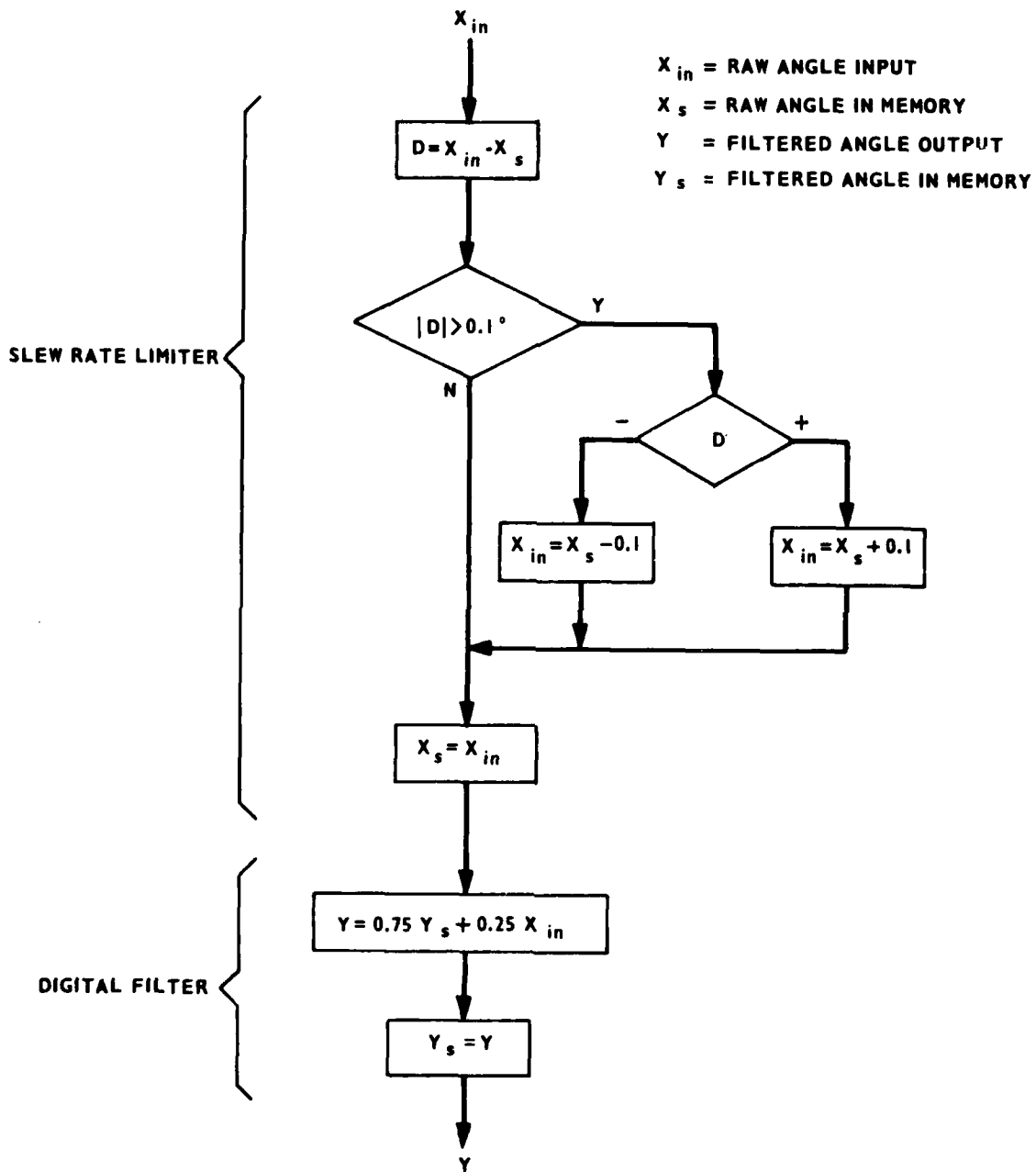
PROFILE 1 CENTERLINE, 3° GLIDESLOPE APPROACH  
(NOT TO SCALE)



PROFILE 2 PARTIAL ORBITS, 1700 FEET ALTITUDE  
(NOT TO SCALE)

81-61-3

FIGURE 3. FLIGHT PROFILES



81-61-4

FIGURE 4. AIRBORNE DATA FILTER ALGORITHM FLOW CHART

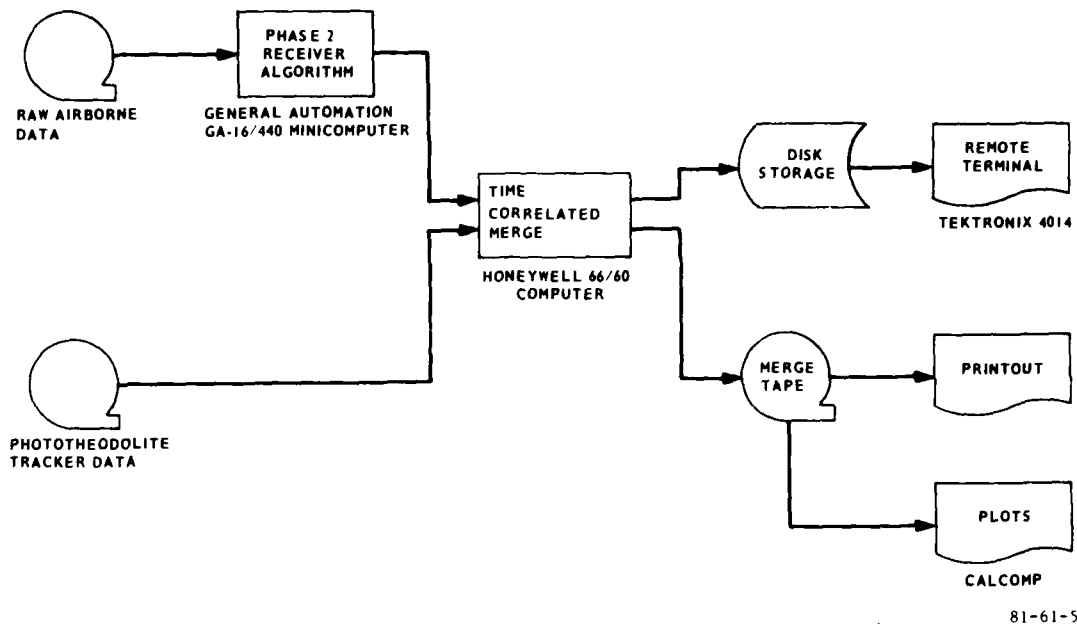


FIGURE 5. MLS FLARE DATA PROCESSING FLOW DIAGRAM

diagnostic plots, figures B-1 through B-5, correspond to the error plots, figures A-1 through A-5, respectively. Diagnostic plots are not provided for the partial orbit flight profiles because the scale factor required to cover a  $\pm 10^\circ$  sector rendered the receiver and tracker traces indistinguishable from each other.

#### PATH FOLLOWING ERROR.

The graphs in appendix C show the angular and linear PFE characteristics in the region of interest. PFE is defined as the theoretical worse case deviation from a preselected course of an aircraft following MLS guidance commands and is estimated using a filter with the following transfer function obtained from reference 1:

$$H(s) = \frac{\omega_n^2}{s^2 + 2\omega_n s + \omega_n^2} ; \omega_n = 3.13 \text{ radians/second} \quad (1)$$

The region of interest is that section of runway 31 between 300 and 2,800 feet inside threshold where the flare accuracy should be comparable to that of radio altimeters. A bias of  $0.05^\circ$ , calculated from the raw error data in this region, was subtracted from the raw error rather than adjusting the mechanical tilt of the flare antenna and electrical bias within the flare antenna driver and cabling. The

raw error with bias removed ( $\theta_{err}$ ) is plotted as raw angular error in figures C-1 through C-5.  $\theta_{err}$  was passed through a digital filter which implemented the transfer function of equation (1) and is shown as PFE filtered angular error in plots C-1 through C-5.

Linear vertical error was obtained from  $\theta_{err}$  and range. A precision DME receiver would normally provide range data, but the theodolite tracker data was employed to obtain independent flare subsystem errors. Using the tracker, ground range ( $R_g$ ) was calculated as follows:

$$R_g = \sqrt{(X_t - X_{fl} - P_x)^2 + (Y_t - Y_{fl} - P_y)^2} \quad (2)$$

where:

$X_t, Y_t$  = target coordinates recorded by tracker

$X_{fl}, Y_{fl}$  = flare antenna phase center coordinates

$P_x, P_y$  = tracking cross offsets from the MLS receiving antenna

Tracking cross offset constants are given in table 2. Vertical error ( $E_v$ ) was then calculated as:

$$E_v = (R_g) \tan(\theta_{err}) \quad (3)$$

and is plotted as raw linear error in figures C-1 through C-5. The PFE filtered angular error was substituted for  $\theta_{err}$  in equation (3) and the resulting  $E_v$  was plotted as PFE filtered linear error in figures C-1 through C-5.

TABLE 2. AIRCRAFT TRACKING CROSS OFFSETS

$P_x$  = 2.583 feet

$P_y$  = 0.000 feet

$P_z$  = 0.667 feet

PFE tolerance limits of  $\pm 2$  feet, as defined by the December 22, 1980 draft MLS Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPS), are superimposed upon both the angular and linear filtered error plots as an aid to evaluation. Examination of the PFE filtered linear error plots from the five available runs reveals that the error marginally exceeds the tolerance limits between -300 and -1,500 feet from threshold. On runs 1 and 3 (figures C-1 and C-2) the error increases rapidly between -2,500 and -2,800 feet from threshold. It should be noted that inside this region, the flare angle changes rapidly and theodolite tracking degrades because theodolite station P8 can no longer "see" the aircraft tracking point (figure 2). Only real-time magnetic tape data (not film corrected data) were used because film reading equipment was not available. Film data are used to correct operator

tracking errors for greater accuracy. Two-sigma tracking accuracy of real time magnetic tape data is specified in reference 2 as  $\pm 1.5$  feet in the z-axis and  $\pm 2$  feet in the x- and y-axes.

Because of the limited number of error plots available for analysis and the lack of film-corrected tracking data, flare antenna PFE accuracy could not be determined.

#### CONTROL MOTION NOISE.

The angular and linear CMN error plots for the region of interest are shown in appendix D.

CMN is noise which causes control surface, column and wheel motion, but does not significantly affect aircraft position. CMN is estimated by using a bandpass filter with the following transfer function obtained from reference 1:

$$H(s) = \left( \frac{s}{s + \omega_1} \right) \left( \frac{\omega_2}{s + \omega_2} \right); \quad \begin{matrix} \omega_1 = 0.5 \text{ radians/second} \\ \omega_2 = 10.0 \text{ radians/second} \end{matrix} \quad (4)$$

$\theta_{err}$  was passed through a digital filter implementing the transfer function of equation (4). The output of this operation is the angular control motion noise and is plotted in figures D-1 through D-5 (appendix D). The vertical error was calculated by substituting the angular control motion noise data for  $\theta_{err}$  in equation (3) and is shown in figures D-1 through D-5. Both linear and angular CMN plots were generated because the MLS SARPS specifies a linear tolerance ( $\pm 1$  foot) and an angular tolerance ( $\pm 0.07^\circ$ ) for CMN.

Examination of the linear CMN plots in appendix D shows that the errors exceed the  $\pm 1$ -foot tolerance well beyond the allowable 5 percent limit over a 10-second evaluation interval. The errors are not consistent as a function of range and do not follow an obvious trend. More precise tracker data are required to evaluate a system that has a  $\pm 1$ -foot accuracy specification.

The angular CMN plots in appendix D are generally within the specified  $\pm 0.07^\circ$  tolerance except between -2,400 and -2,800 feet from threshold. However, it should be noted that in this region a tracking error of 1.5 feet in the z-axis results in a flare angular error of  $0.11^\circ$  at -2,800 feet from threshold. The explanation of theodolite tracking accuracy, previously given in the "Path Following Error" section, also applies to CMN.

Because of the limited number of error plots available for analysis and the lack of film-corrected tracking data, flare antenna CMN accuracy could not be determined.

#### REFERENCES

1. ICAO Test Plan for U.S. Microwave Landing System, Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, March 31, 1975.
2. Microwave Landing System Phase II Tracker Error Study, Federal Aviation Administration, Report No. FAA-RD-74-207, December 1974.

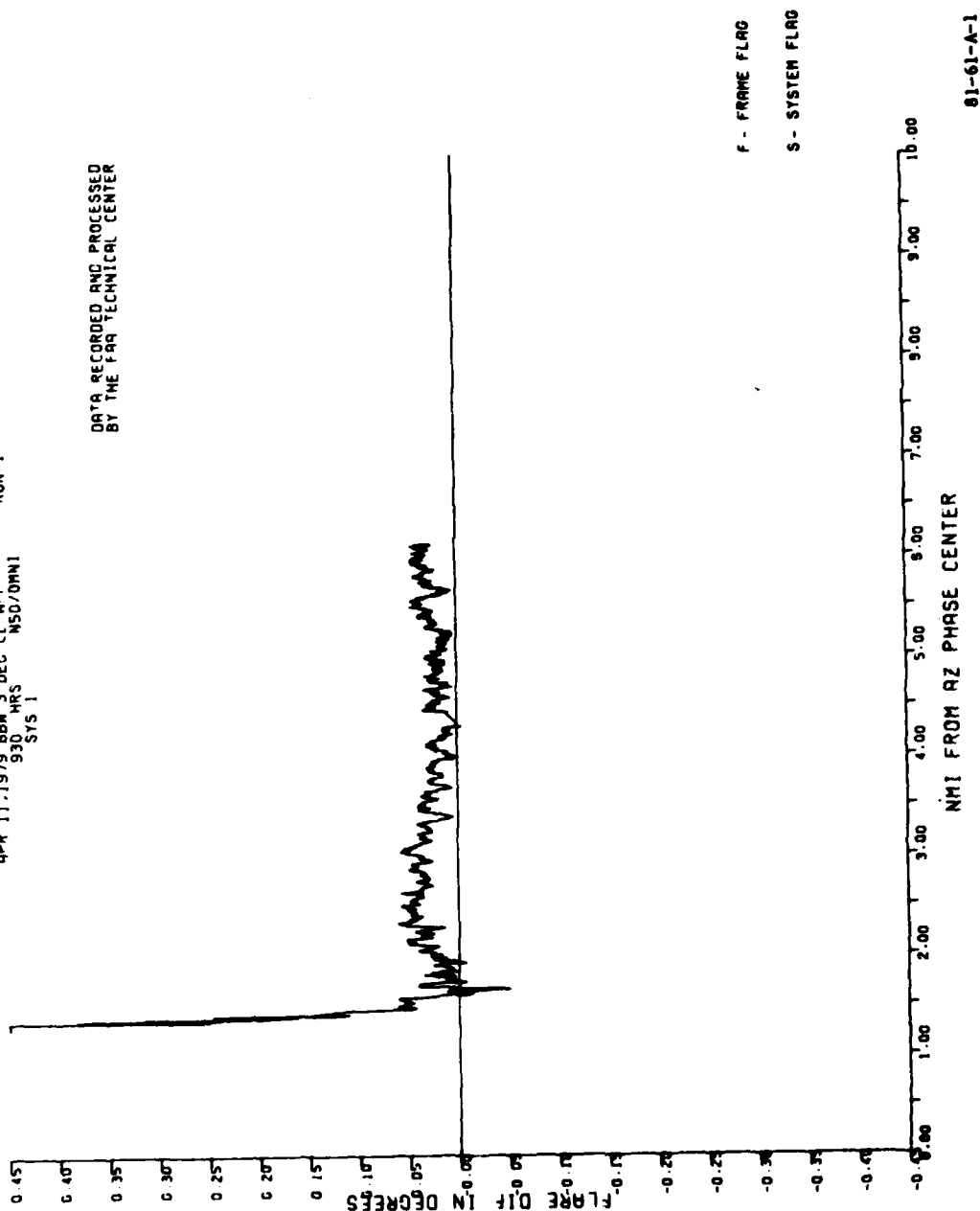


APPENDIX A  
RAW ERROR PLOTS

<u>Type of Pattern</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
3° glide slope, centerline	A-1 to A-5
Partial orbit at 4 nmi and 1,700-foot altitude	A-6 to A-10

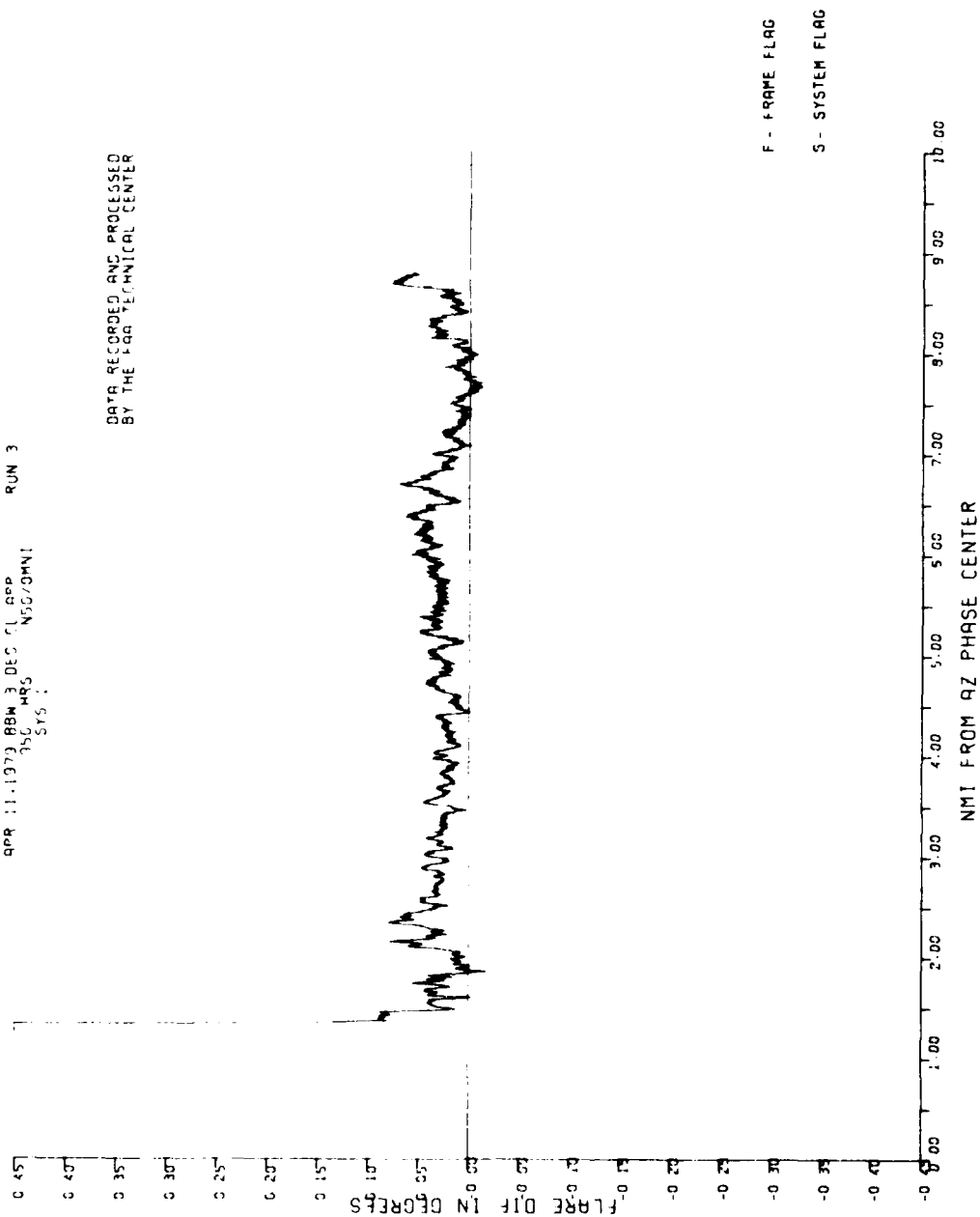
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930 HRS NSD/DMNI  
SYS 1 RUN 1

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BY THE FRA TECHNICAL CENTER



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 750 HRS N50/00N1  
 SYS : RUN 3

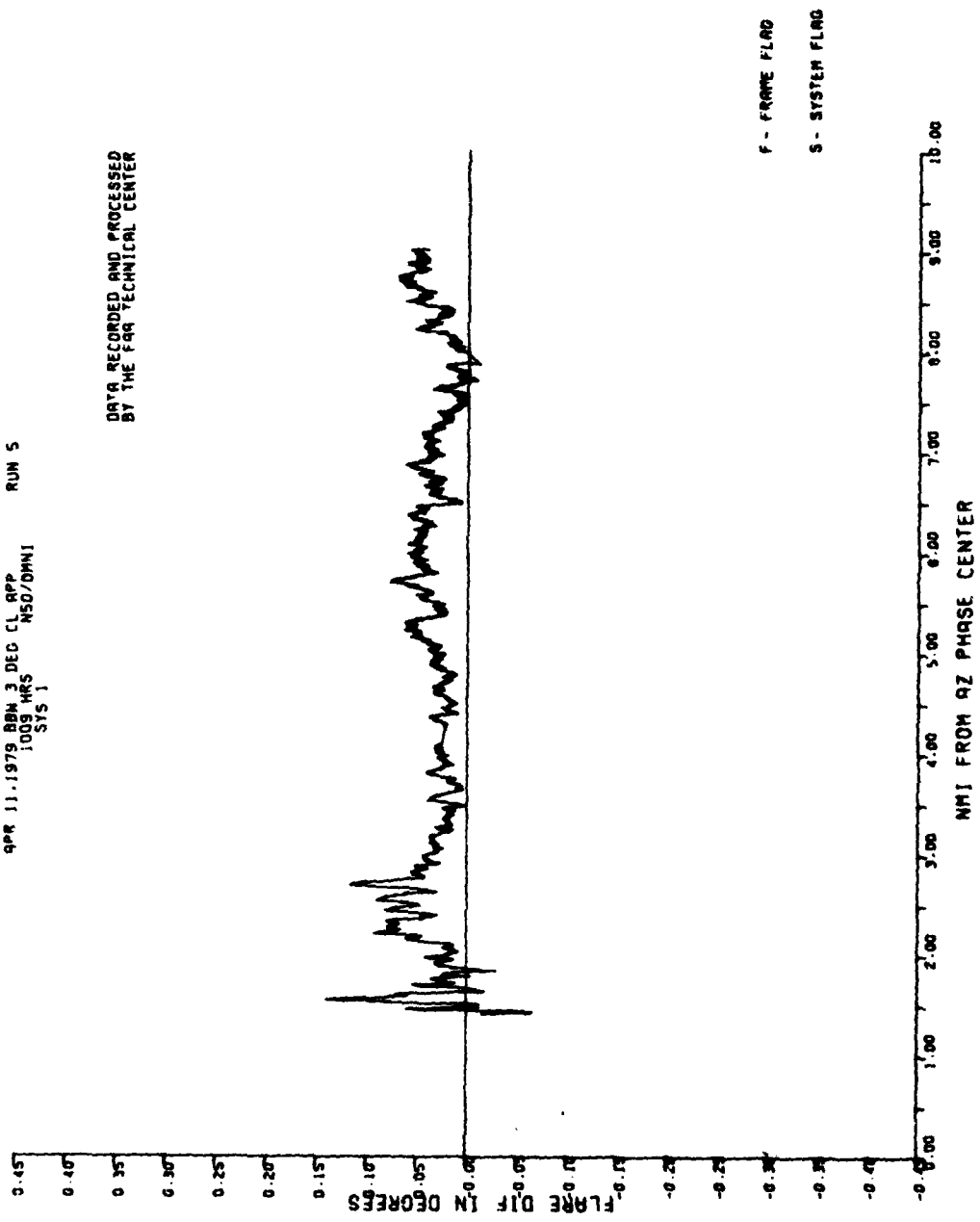
DATA RECORDED AND PROCESSED  
 BY THE FGA TECHNICAL CENTER



81-61-A-2

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1009 HRS NSO/DMMI  
SYS 1

DATA RECORDED AND PROCESSED  
BY THE FRA TECHNICAL CENTER

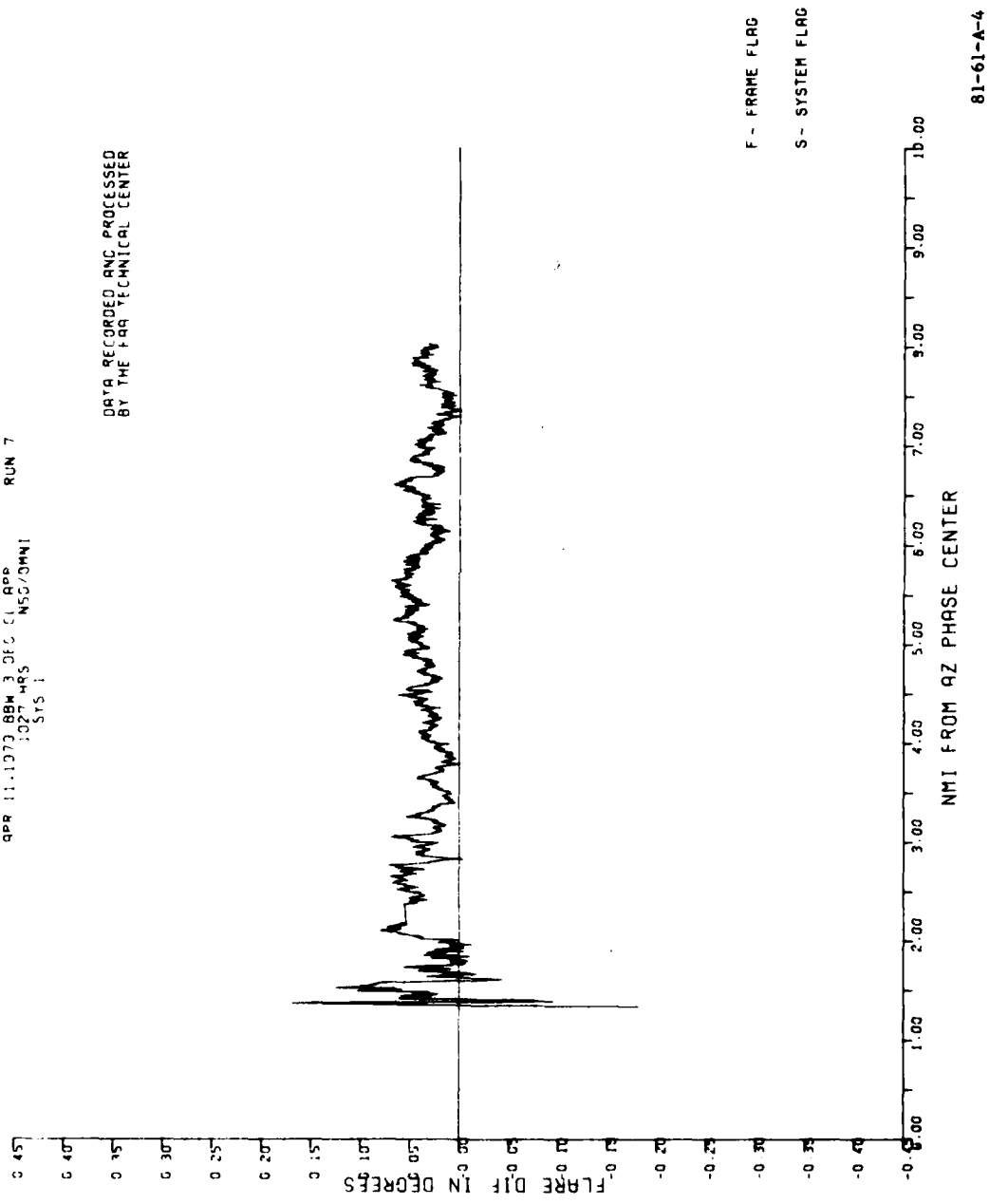


01-61-A-3

QPR 11.1373 88W 3 OFC CL APP  
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SYS 1

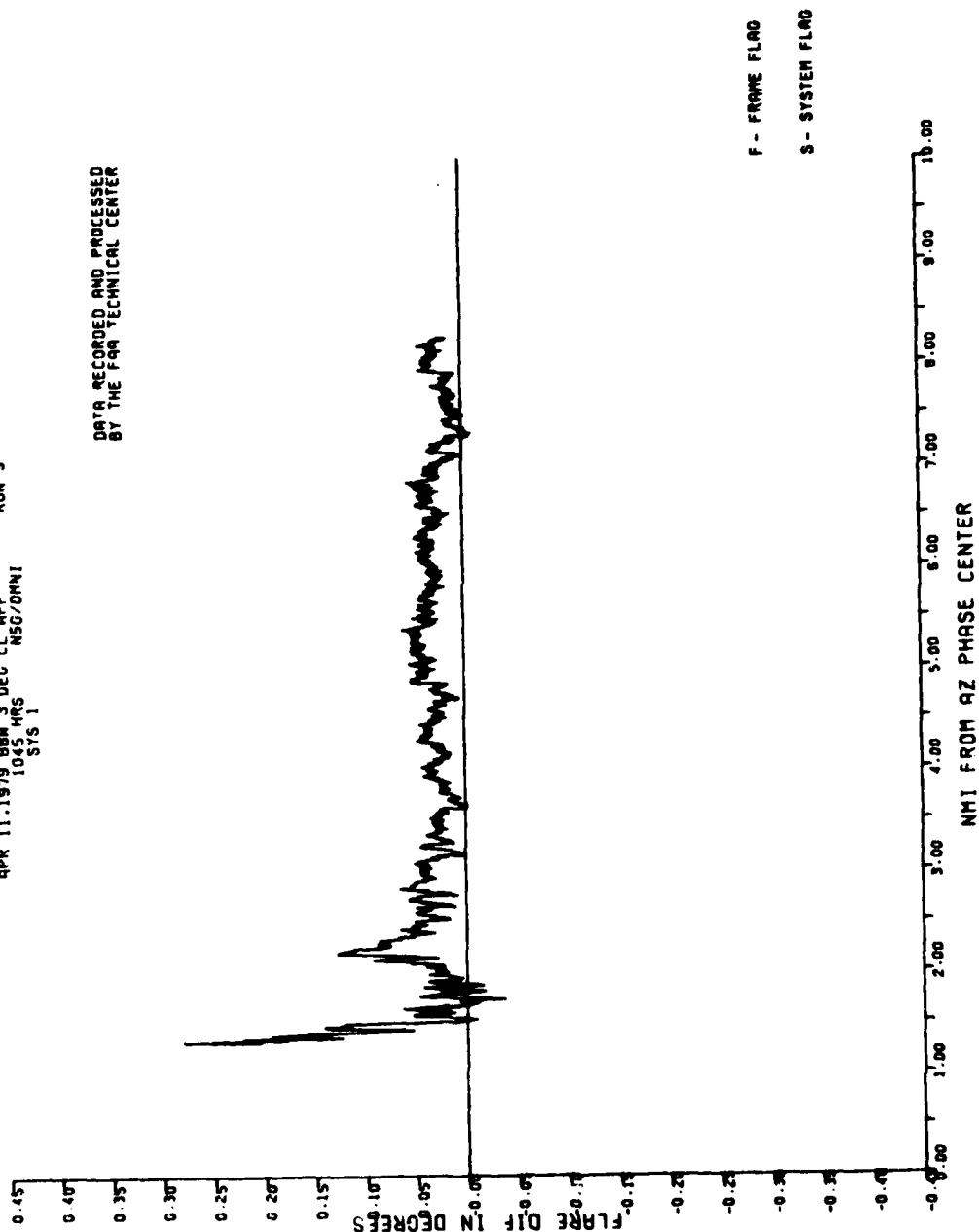
RUN 7

DATA RECORDED AND PROCESSED  
BY THE FAA TECHNICAL CENTER



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1045 HRS NSG/OMNI  
SYS 1 RUN 9

DATA RECORDED AND PROCESSED  
BY THE FFA TECHNICAL CENTER



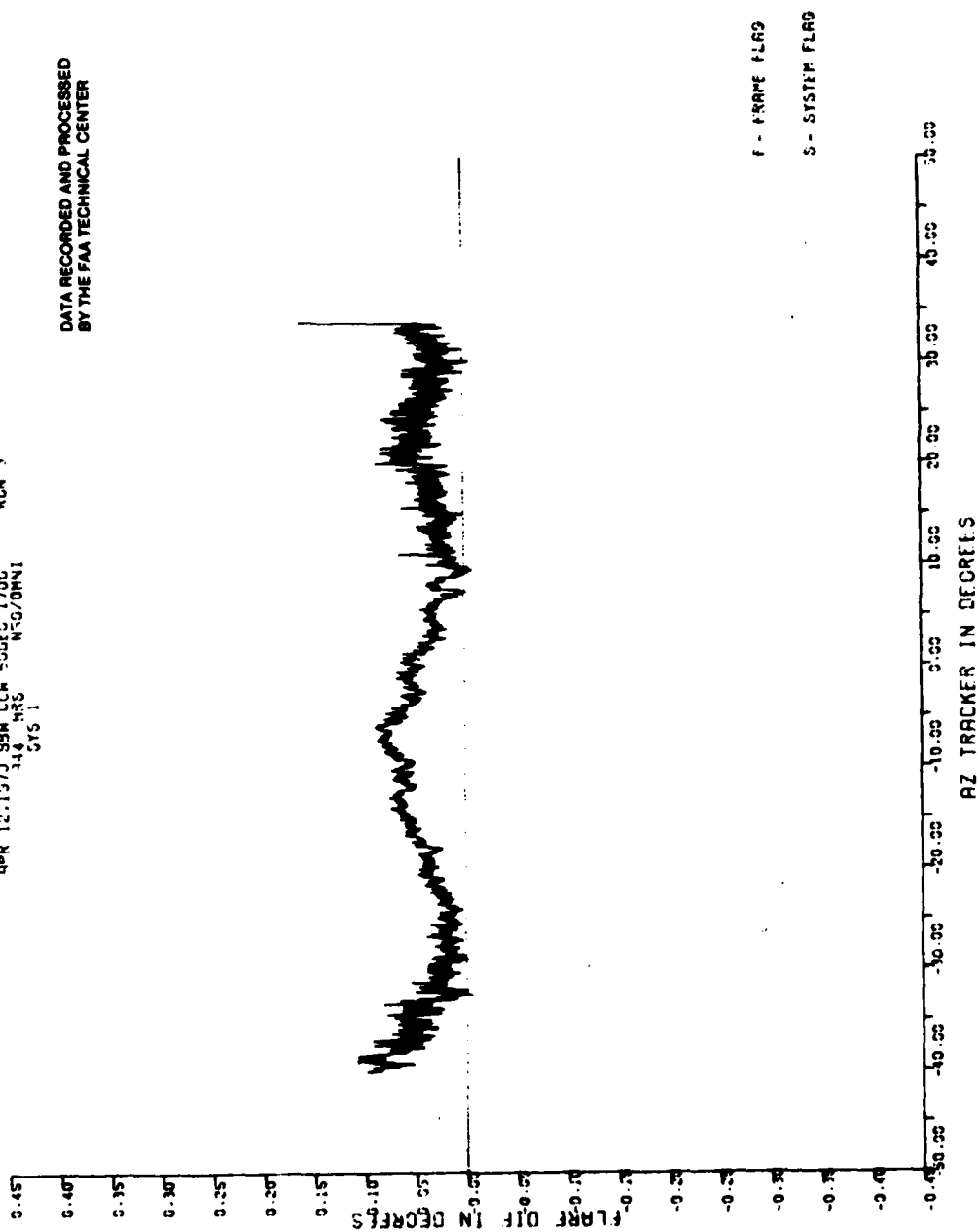
81-61-A-5



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 14.4 HRS NEG/OMNI  
 SYS 1

RUN 3

DATA RECORDED AND PROCESSED  
 BY THE FAA TECHNICAL CENTER



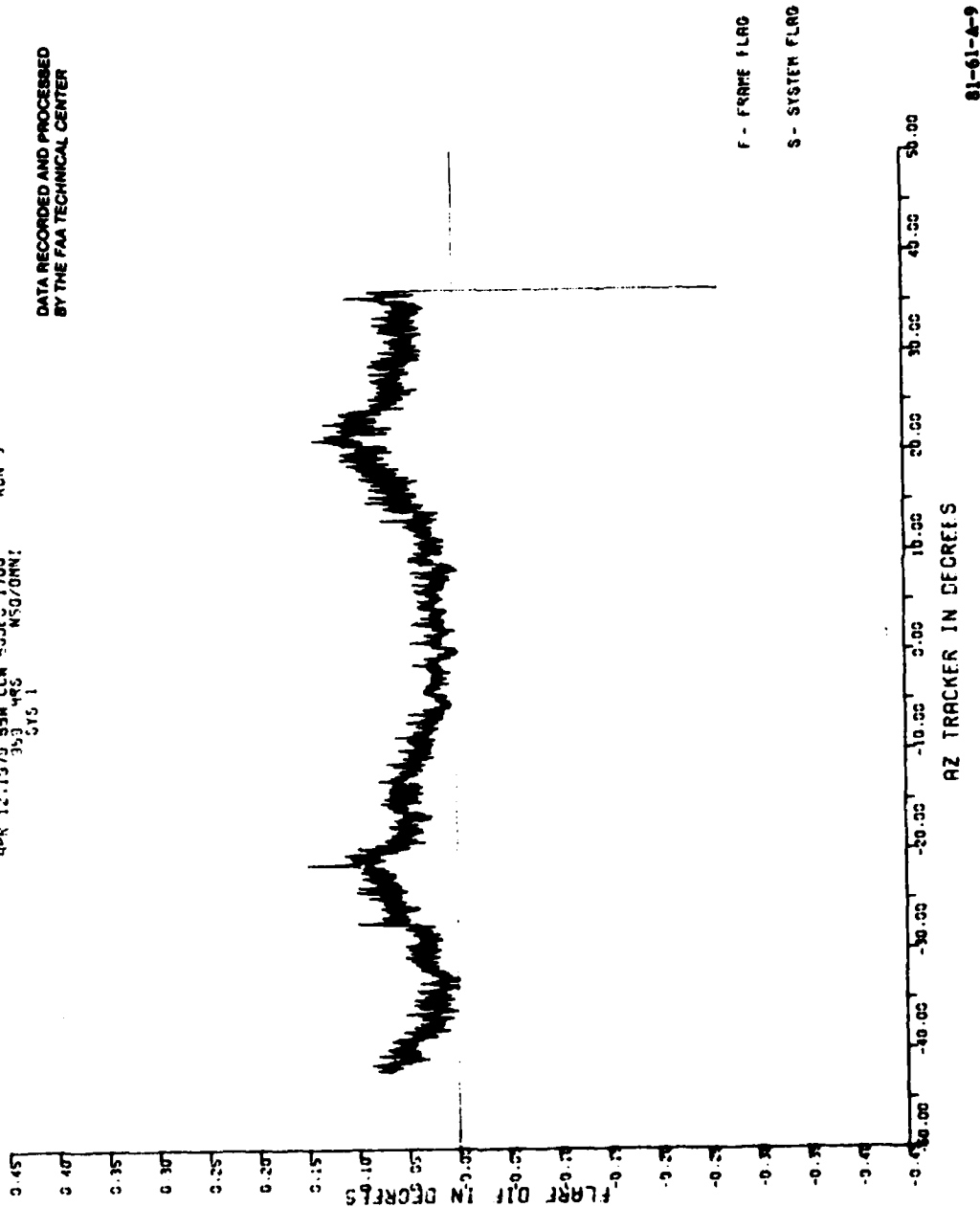
81-61-A-7





QPR 12.1370 99M CCM 500EC 1700: RUN 3  
 353 485 MSG/DNN:  
 CYS 1

DATA RECORDED AND PROCESSED  
 BY THE FAA TECHNICAL CENTER



DATA RECORDED AND PROCESSED  
BY THE FAA TECHNICAL CENTER

SPR 12.1070 89M CW 45 DLS 1700  
1005 HRC NIS/3MNI  
375 1

FLARE DIF IN DEGREES



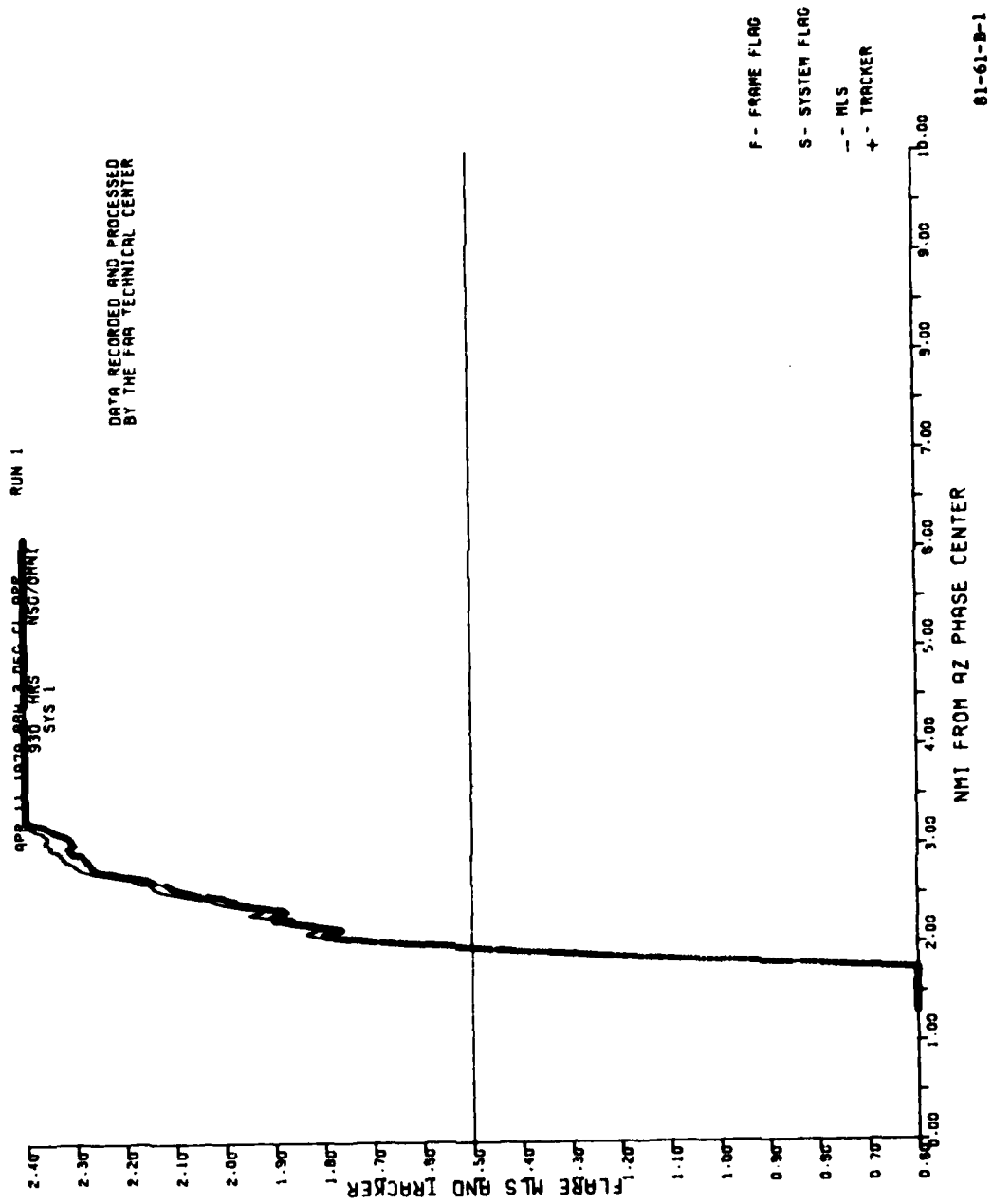
F - FRAME FLAG  
S - SYSTEM FLAG

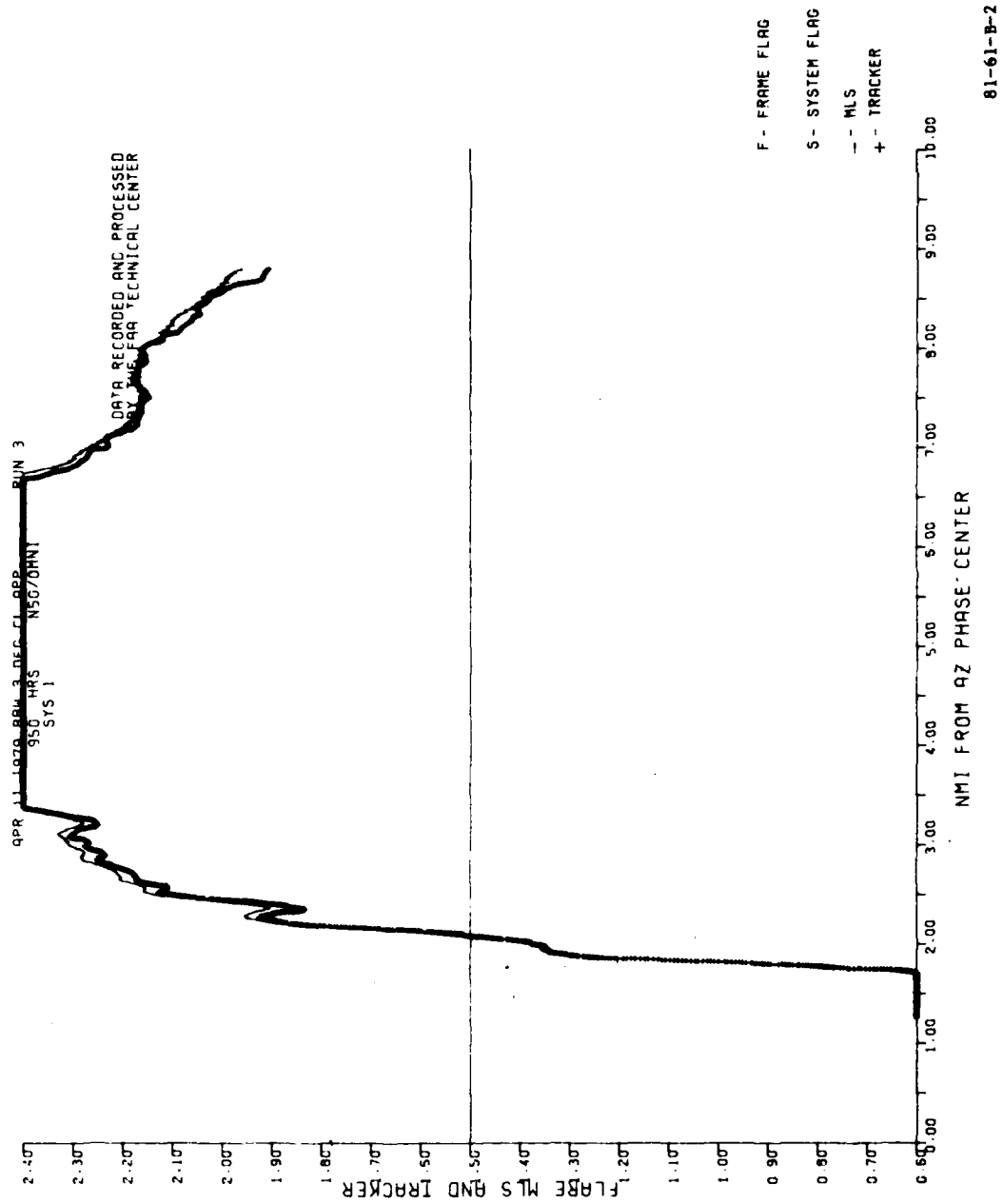
AZ TRACKER IN DEGREES

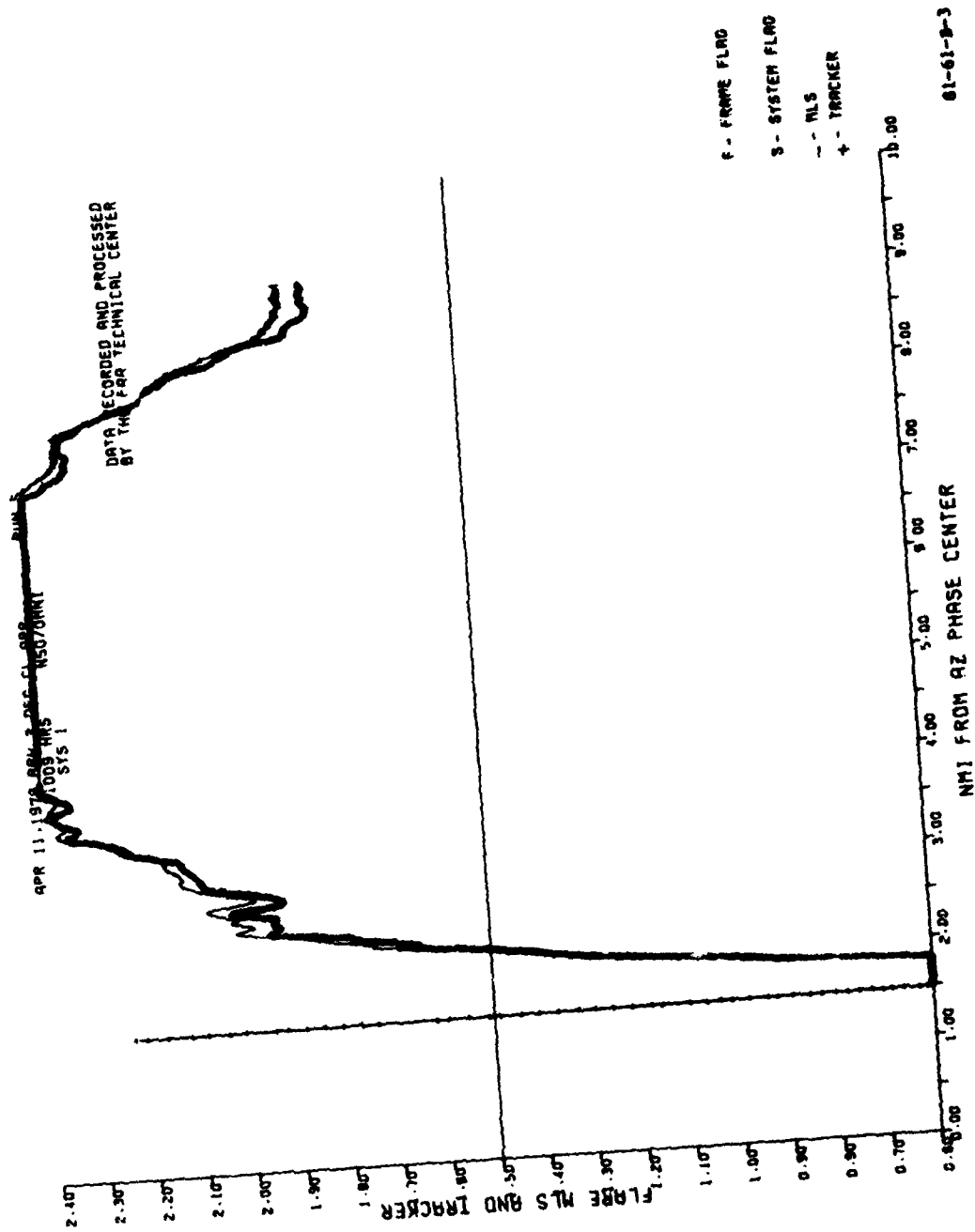
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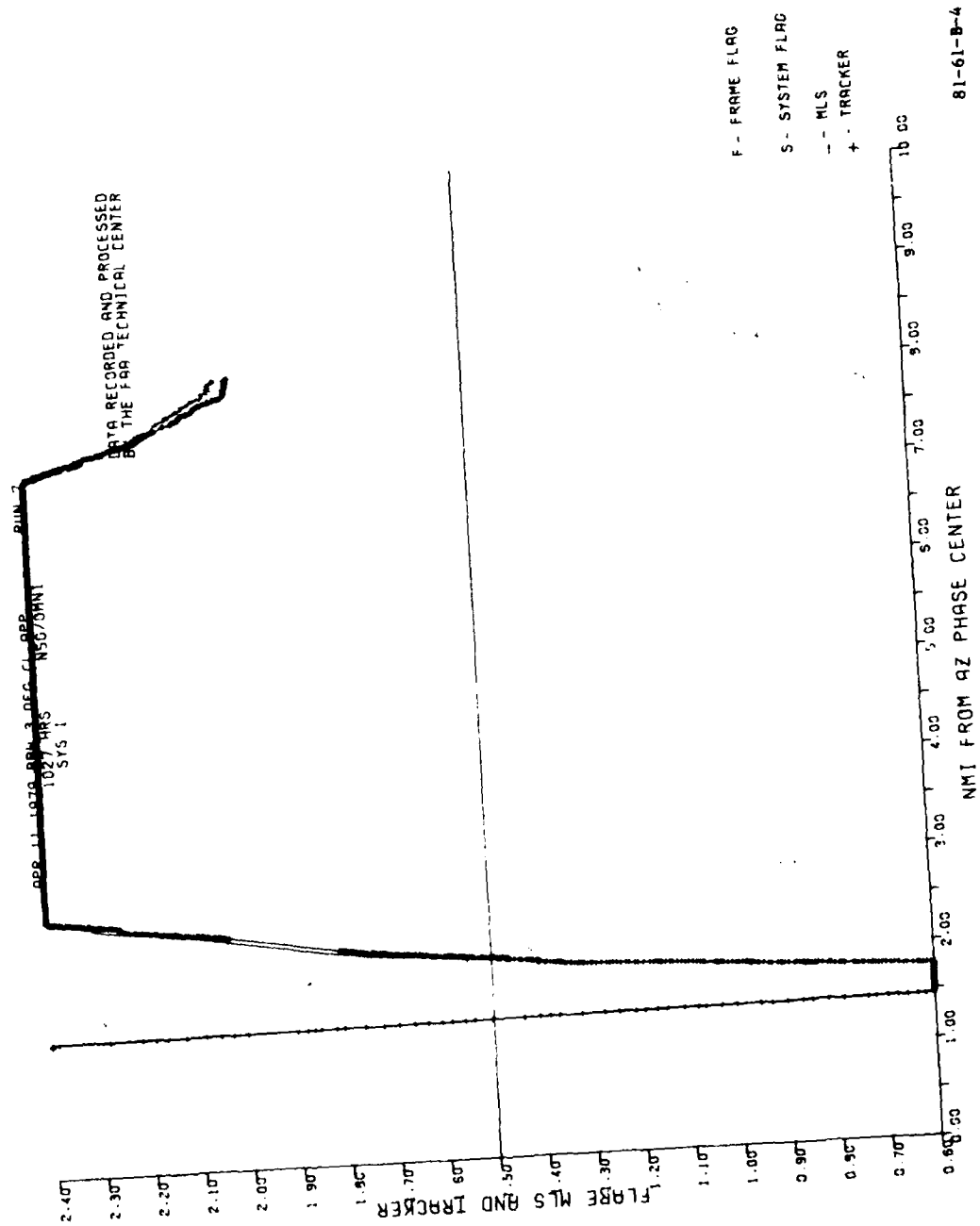
APPENDIX B  
DIAGNOSTIC PLOTS

<u>Type of Pattern</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Three degree glide slope, centerline	B-1 to B-5

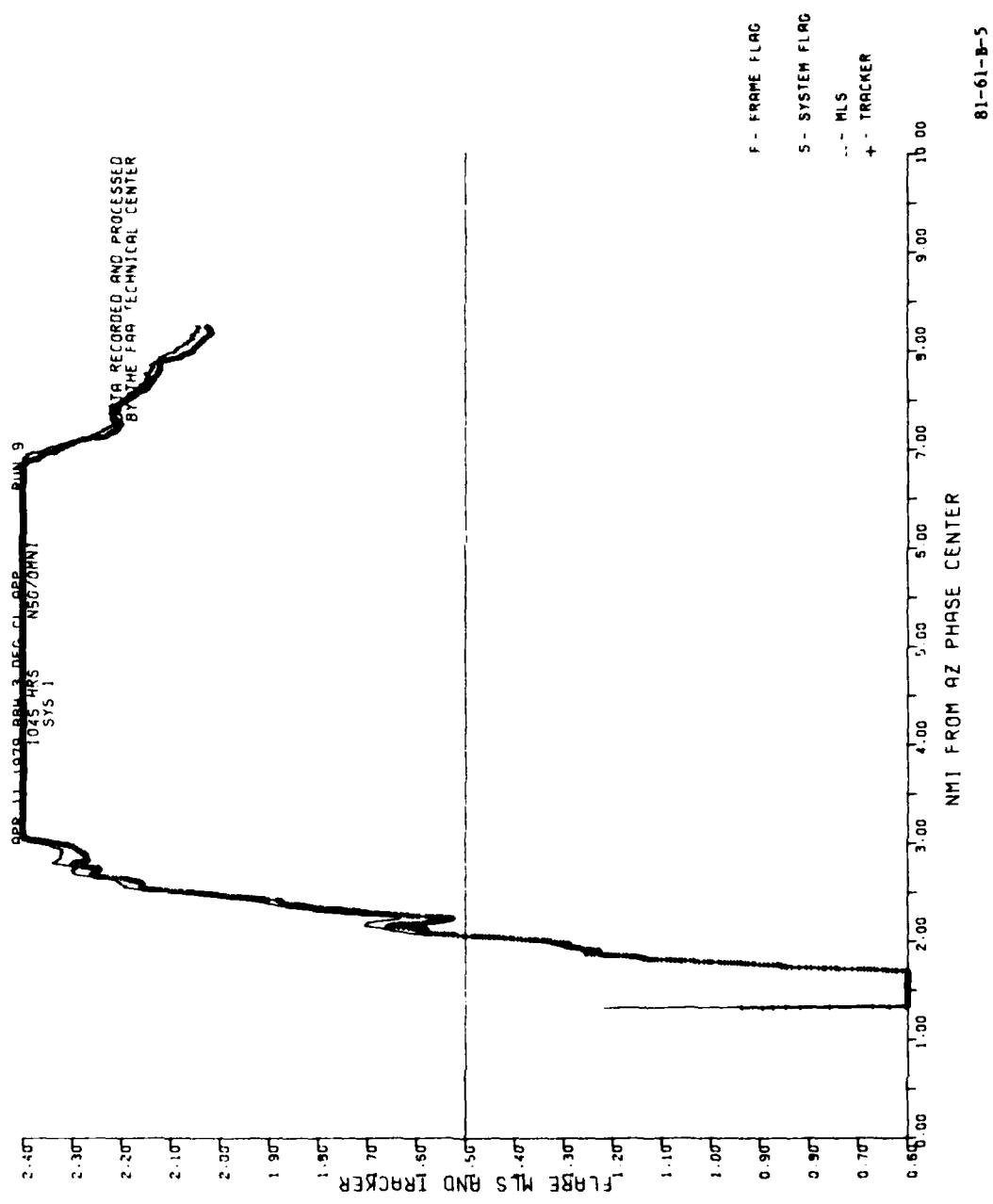












APPENDIX C

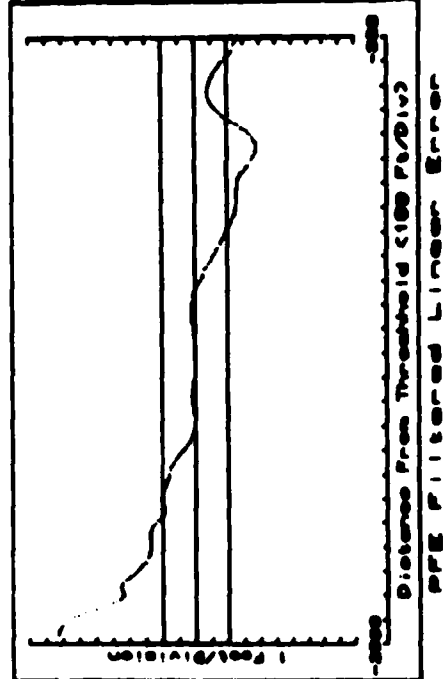
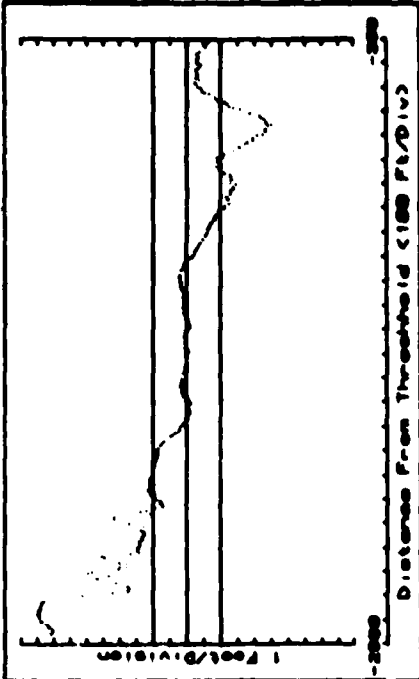
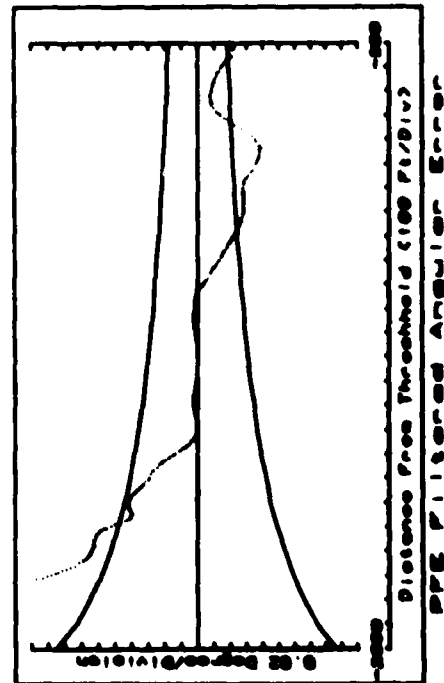
EXPANDED RAW AND PATH FOLLOWING ERROR PLOTS

<u>Type of Pattern</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Three degree glide slope, centerline	C-1 to C-5

# MLS Flare Subsystem Airborne Test Data

Run 1 Start Time 00:28:30

## 11 April 1979 DATA RECORDED AND PROCESSED BY THE FAA TECHNICAL CENTER

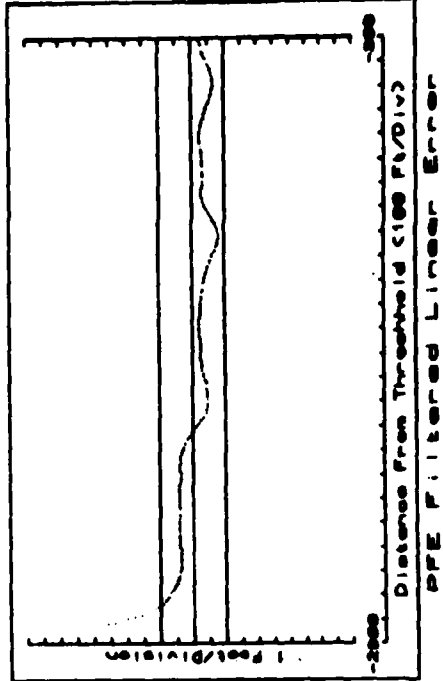
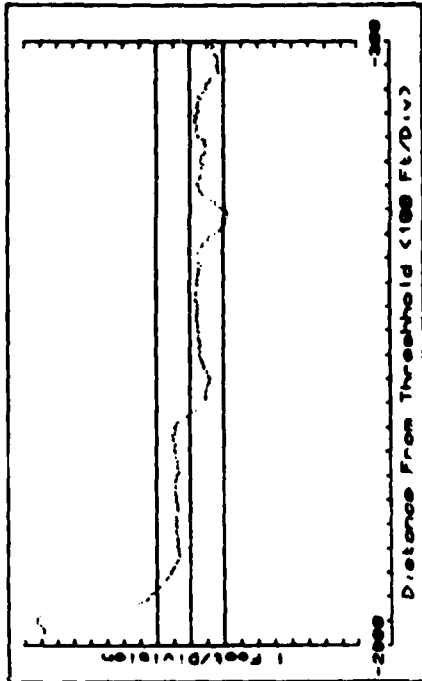
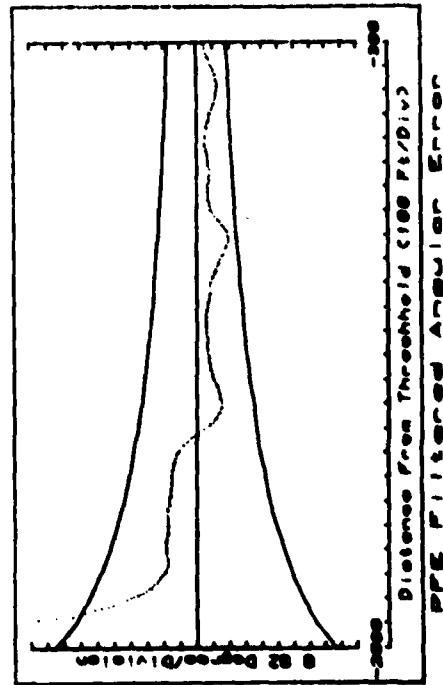
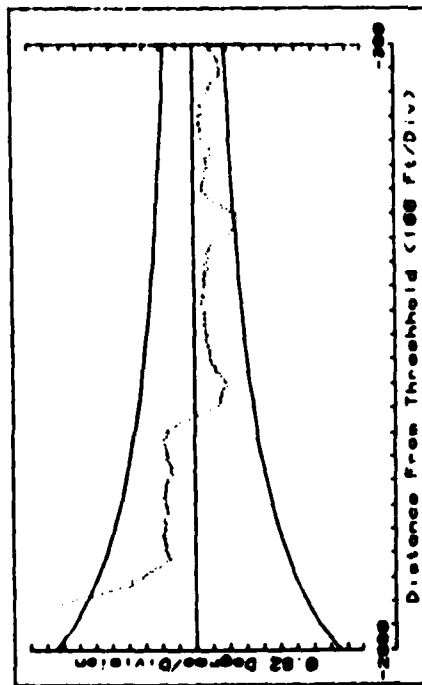


81-61-C-1

# MLS Flare Subsystem Airborne Test Data

11 Apr 1 1979 DATA RECORDED AND PROCESSED BY THE FAA TECHNICAL CENTER

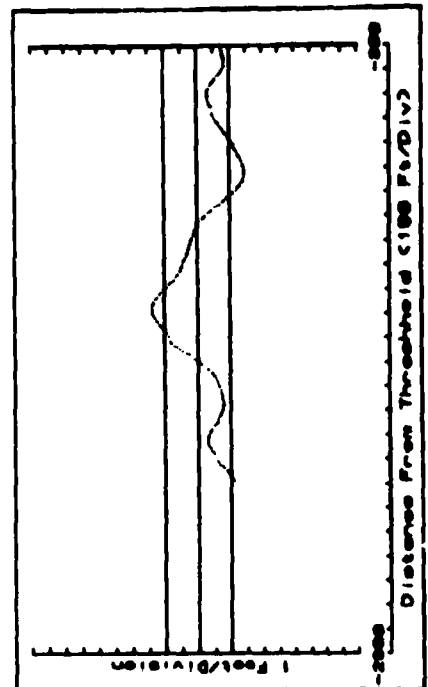
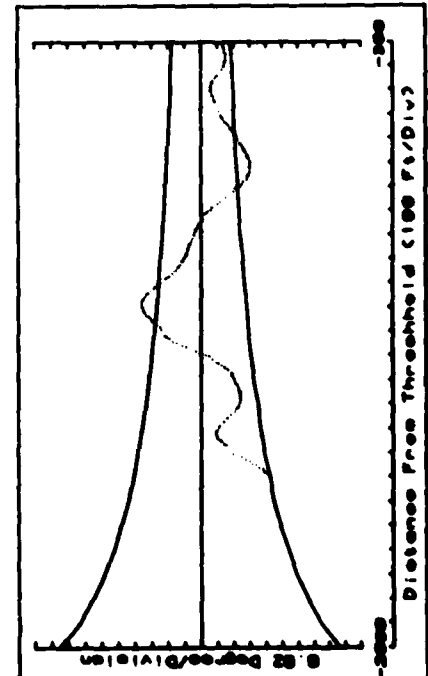
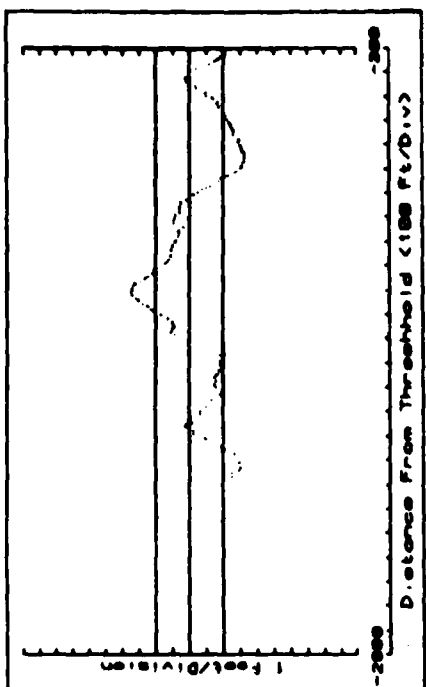
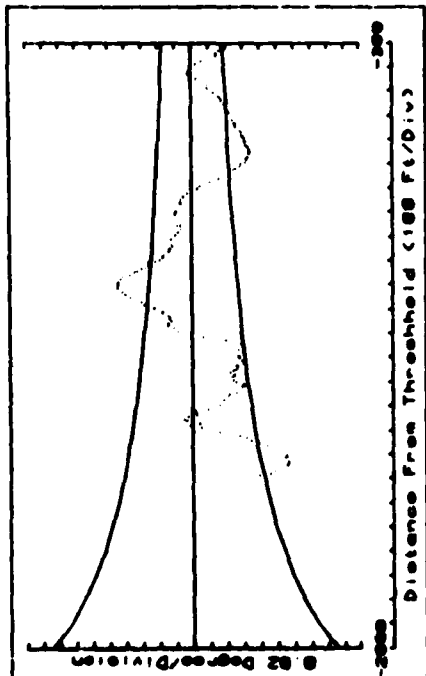
Run 3 Start Time 09 49 12



81-61-C-2

# MLS Flare Subsystem Airborne Test Data

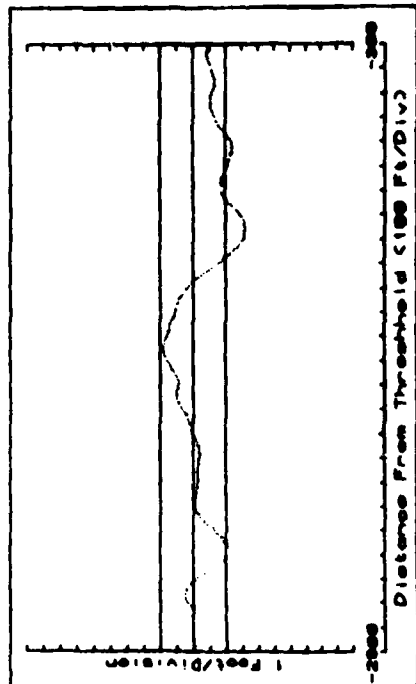
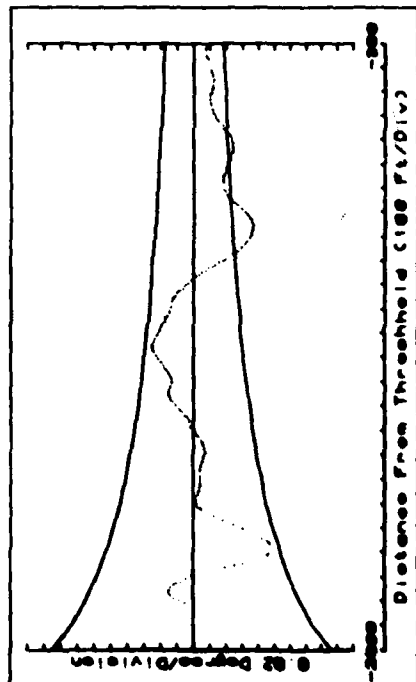
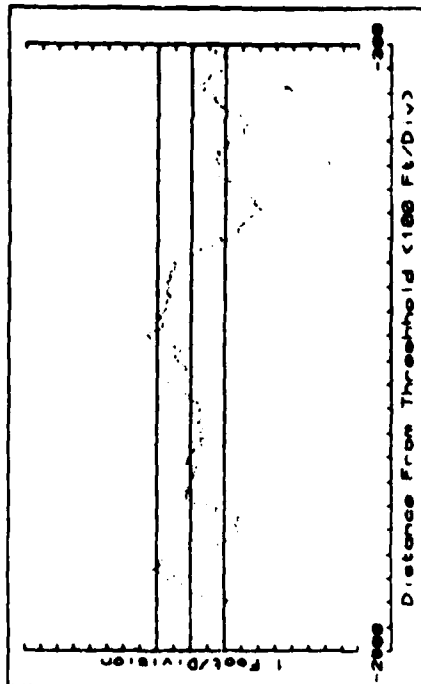
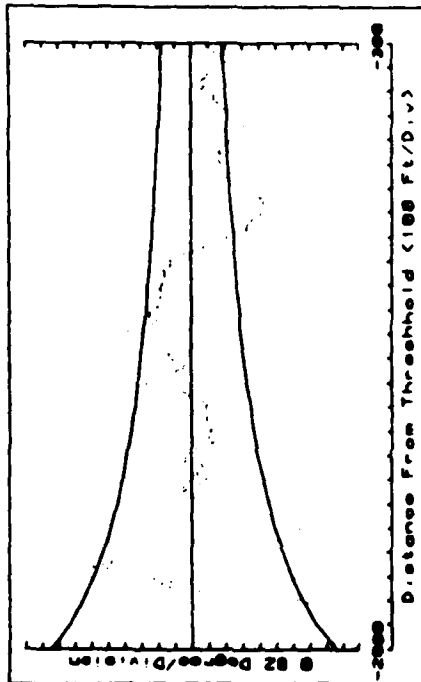
11 Apr 11 1979 DATA RECORDED AND PROCESSED BY THE FAA TECHNICAL CENTER Run 5 Start Time 10:00:05



81-61-C-3

# MLS Flare Subsystem Airborne Test Data

11 April 1979 DATA RECORDED AND PROCESSED BY THE FAA TECHNICAL CENTER Run 7 Start Time 10 27 17



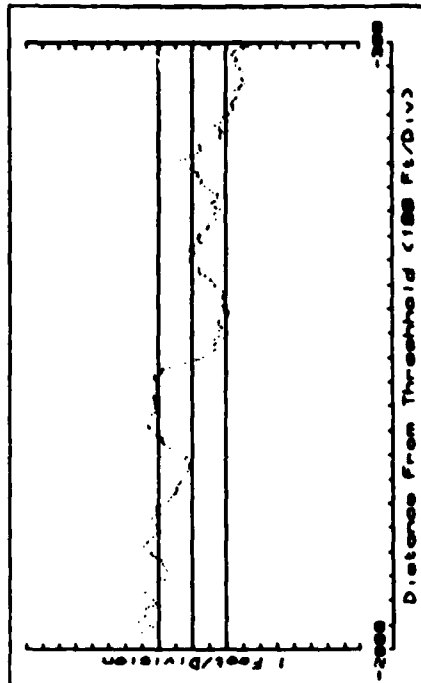
81-61-C-4

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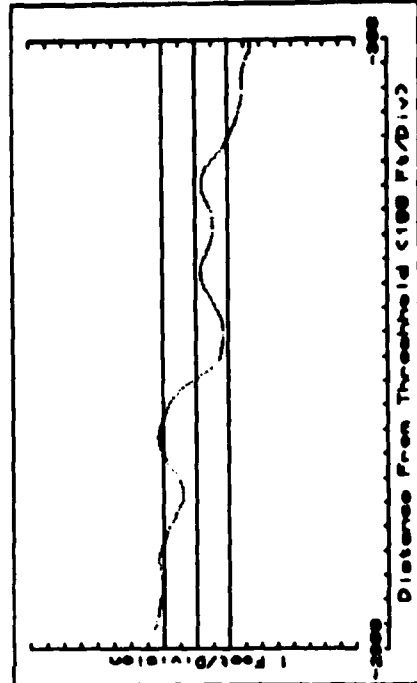
Run 9 Start Time 10 45 12

11 Apr 11 1979

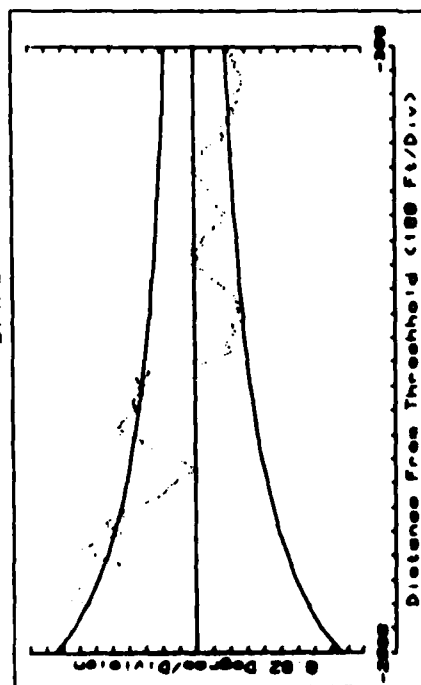
DATA RECORDED AND PROCESSED  
BY THE FAA TECHNICAL CENTER



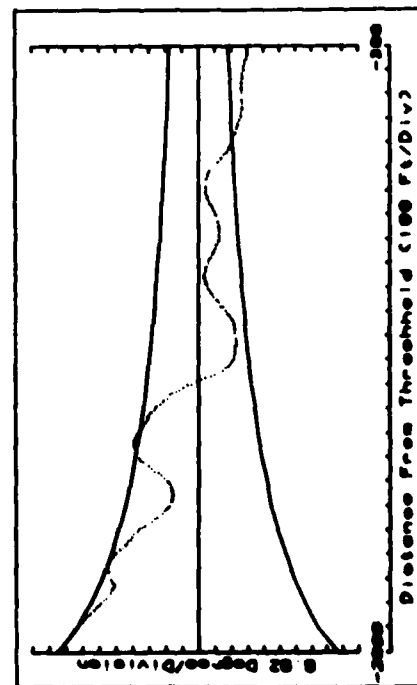
Raw Linear Error



PFE Filtered Linear Error



Raw Angular Error



PFE Filtered Angular Error

81-61-C-5

APPENDIX D  
CONTROL MOTION NOISE PLOT

<u>Type of Pattern</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Three degree glide slope, centerline	D-1 to D-5



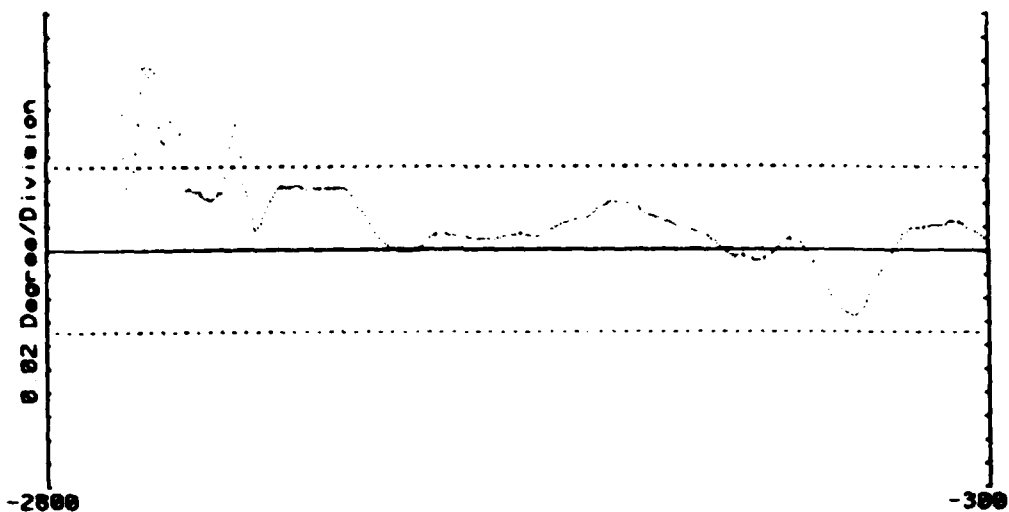
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11 April 1979

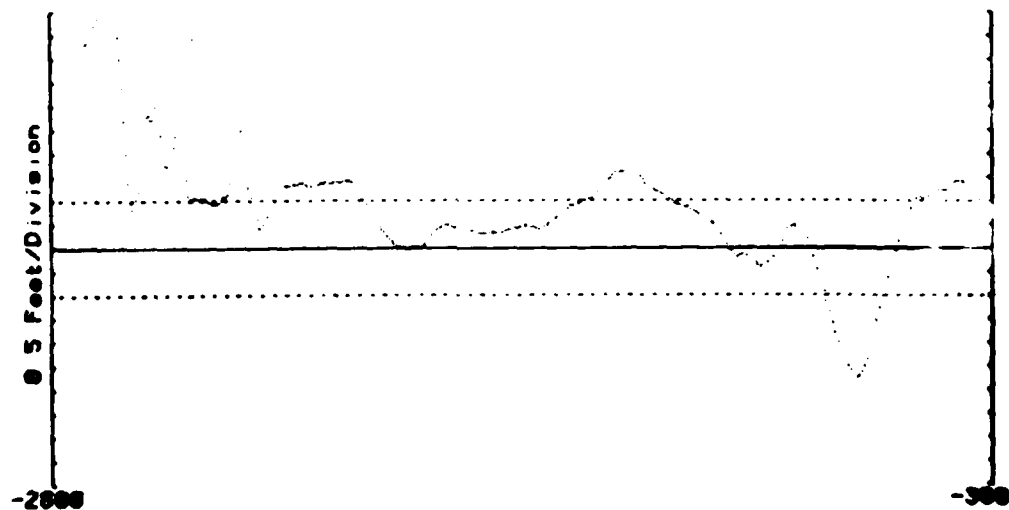
DATA RECORDED AND PROCESSED  
BY THE FAA TECHNICAL CENTER

Run 1

Start Time 09:28:30



Distance From Threshold (100 Ft/Div)  
Angular Control Motion Noise

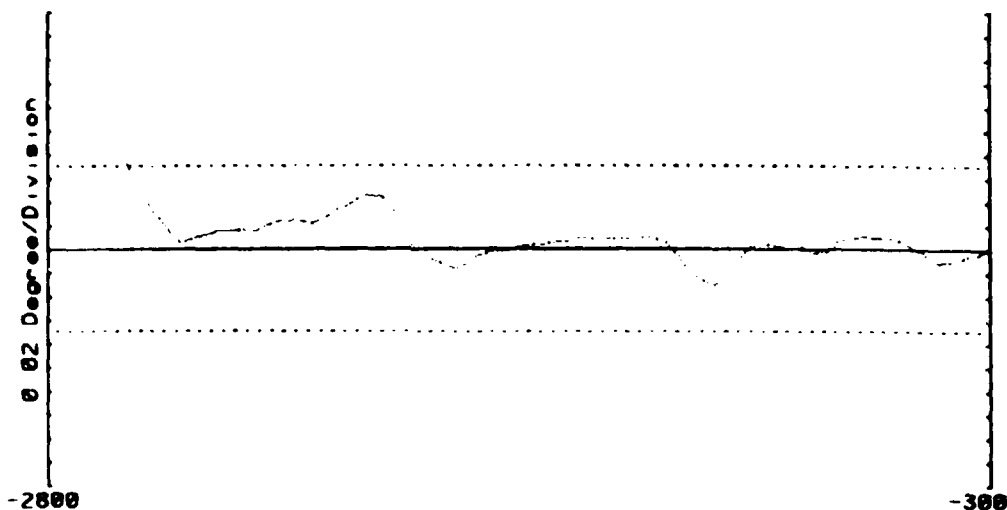


Distance From Threshold (100 Ft/Div)  
Linear Control Motion Noise

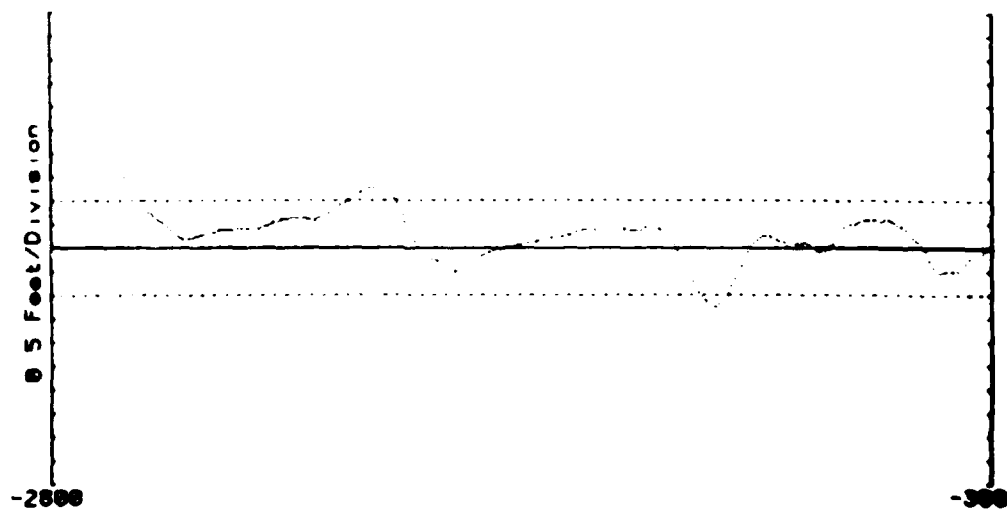
81-61-D-1

# MLS Flare Subsystem Airborne Test Data

11 April 1979 DATA RECORDED AND PROCESSED BY THE FAA TECHNICAL CENTER Run 3 Start Time 09:49:12



Distance From Threshold (100 Ft/Div)  
Angular Control Motion Noise



Distance From Threshold (100 Ft/Div)  
Linear Control Motion Noise

81-61-D-2

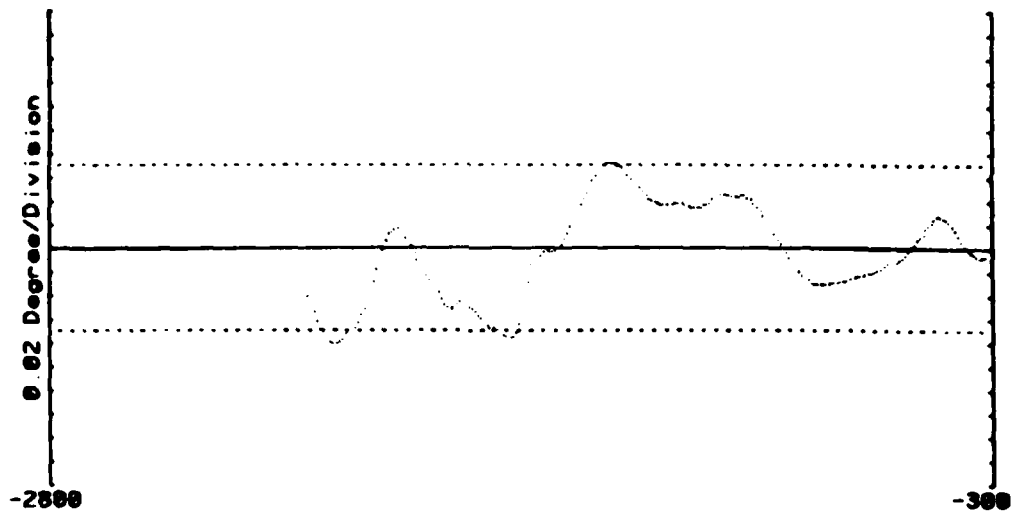
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11 April 1979

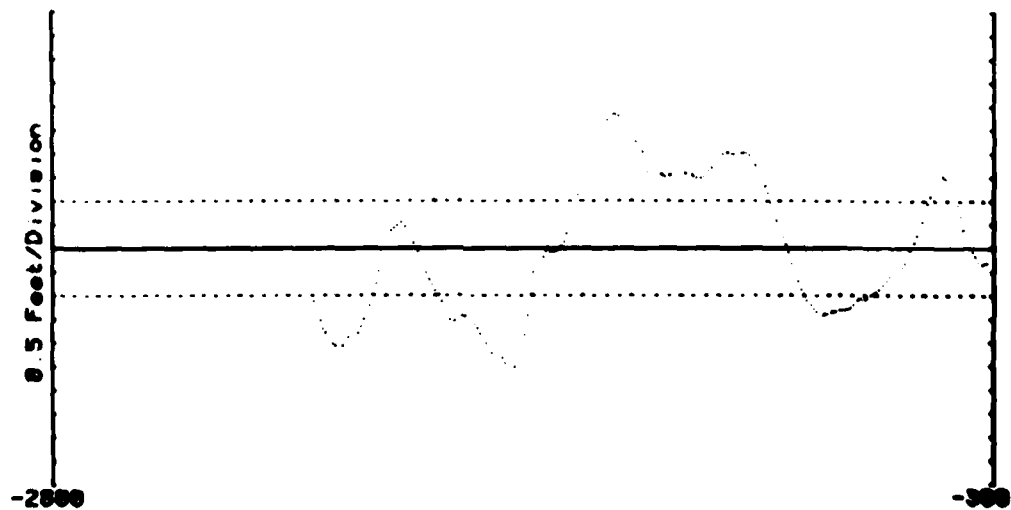
DATA RECORDED AND PROCESSED  
BY THE FAA TECHNICAL CENTER

Run 5

Start Time 10.00.05



Distance From Threshold (100 Ft/Div)  
Angular Control Motion Noise



Distance From Threshold (100 Ft/Div)  
Linear Control Motion Noise

81-61-D-3

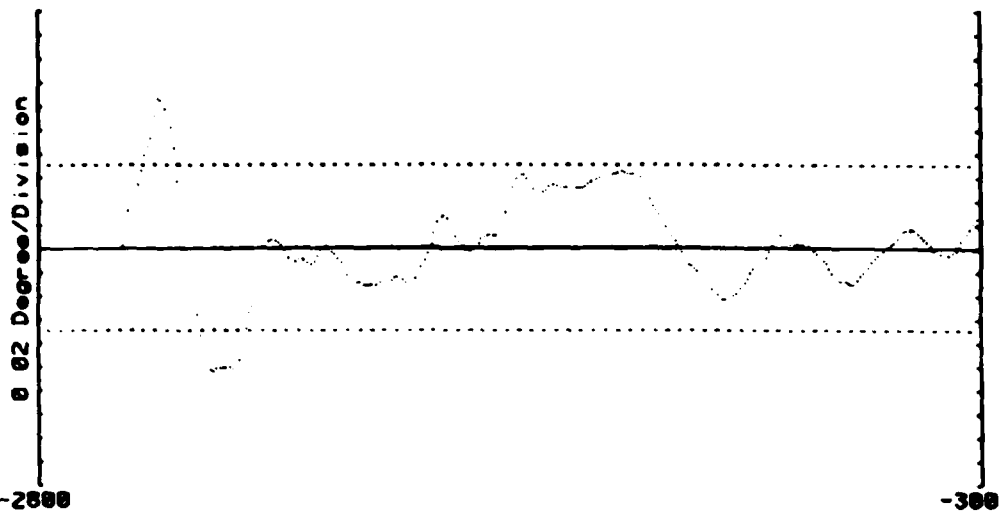
# MLS Flare Subsystem Airborne Test Data

11 April 1979

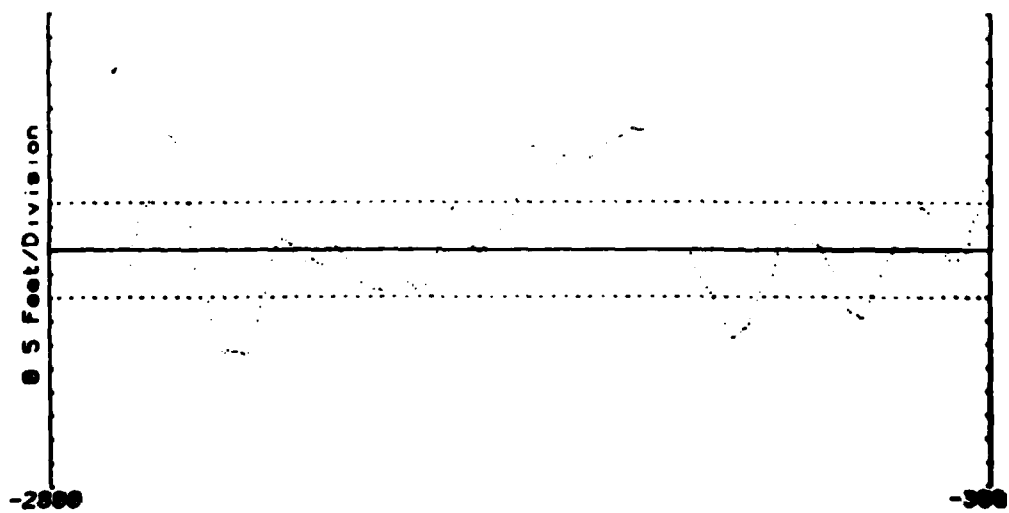
DATA RECORDED AND PROCESSED  
BY THE FAA TECHNICAL CENTER

Run 7

Start Time 10:27:17



Distance From Threshold (100 Ft/Div)  
Angular Control Motion Noise



Distance From Threshold (100 Ft/Div)  
Linear Control Motion Noise

81-61-D-4

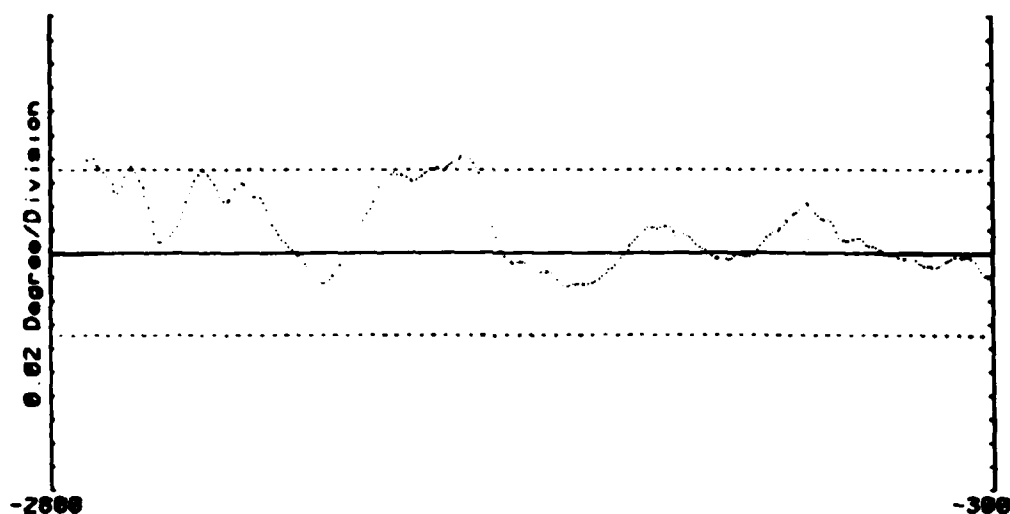
# MLS Flare Subsystem Airborne Test Data

11 April 1979

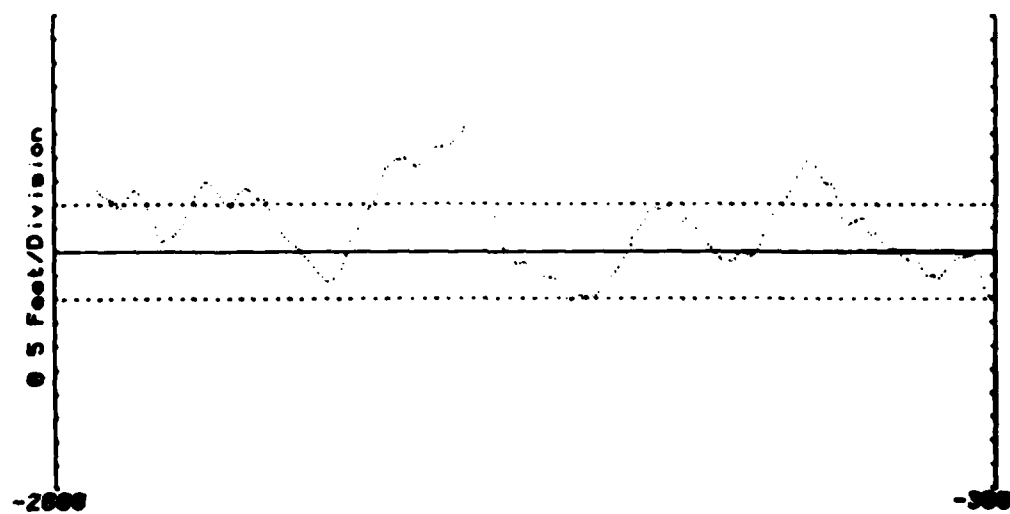
DATA RECORDED AND PROCESSED  
BY THE FAA TECHNICAL CENTER

Run 9

Start Time 10:45:12



Distance From Threshold (100 Ft/Div)  
Angular Control Motion Noise



Distance From Threshold (100 Ft/Div)  
Linear Control Motion Noise

81-61-D-5

END

DATE  
FILMED

12-81

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